

## STATE OF MICHIGAN

## BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the matter of the application of  
DTE Electric Company for approval Case No. U-20471  
of its Integrated Resource Plan  
pursuant to MCL 460.6t, and for  
other relief.

## PUBLIC HEARING

Wayne County Community College - Downtown Campus

Frank Hayden Community Room

1001 W. Fort Street

Detroit, Michigan 48226

Thursday, June 20, 2019

4:00 p.m.

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APPEARANCES:

Before: SALLY TALBERG, MPSC Chairperson  
NORMAN SAARI, MPSC Commissioner  
DANIEL SCRIPPS, MPSC Commissioner  
  
DENNIS W. MACK, Administrative Law Judge  
  
CATHY COLE, MPSC Staff

- - -

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Detroit, Michigan

Thursday, June 20, 2019

At about 4:00 p.m.

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(Public Hearing commenced pursuant to due notice.)

JUDGE MACK: Good afternoon. This is a public meeting before the Michigan Public Service Commission for taking comment on the application of DTE Electric Company for approval of its Integrated Resource Plan pursuant to MCL 460.6t, and for other relief. The docket number of this case is U-20471.

My name is Dennis Mack, I'm an administrative law judge for the State of Michigan, and I will be assisting the Commission during this public meeting.

Consistent with the notice entered on May 15, this proceeding is intended to inform the public about both the IRP process and the Commission's role in reviewing the application through the administrative hearing process, and providing the public opportunity to comment on the application to the Commissioners.

I would like to note that we have a court reporter who is transcribing this meeting, so it's important to maintain quiet in the room and that all cellphones are silenced. The transcript of this meeting

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1 will be available on the Commission's E-docket under the  
2 case number. In addition, all filings in this case, from  
3 the application to the Commission's ultimate final order,  
4 is also available on the E-docket.

5 And with that, I will turn it over to the  
6 chair of the Public Service Commission.

7 MS. TALBERG: Good afternoon. My name is  
8 Sally Talberg, I'm the chairman of the Michigan Public  
9 Service Commission. We have three Commissioners here,  
10 Commissioner Norm Saari, Commissioner Dan Scripps, and  
11 myself. We're all appointed by the Governor, and with  
12 advice and consent from the Michigan Senate, and we serve  
13 staggered six-year terms. The Public Service Commission  
14 also has about 180 technical staff with background in  
15 engineering, accounting, customer assistance, and other  
16 fields.

17 So I'm going to give a brief  
18 introduction, just some of my background, and then  
19 talk -- provide an overview of why we're here today.

20 I've served on the Public Service  
21 Commission since 2013, was previously on the staff, and  
22 have spent about the last 20 years in environmental and  
23 energy fields.

24 The purpose for why we're here today is  
25 to take public input on DTE Energy's Integrated Resource

1 Plan, or IRP as we call it. This is a comprehensive plan  
2 for how the utility will meet its customer energy needs  
3 in the future; it examines options such as energy  
4 efficiency, new generation sources, such as wind energy,  
5 solar, and other sources, as well as retirement of  
6 existing power plants.

7 The Public Service Commission is a  
8 creature of statute. We were created over a hundred  
9 years ago originally to regulate railroads in the state,  
10 and our responsibilities have changed over time based on  
11 industry changes and legislation that either adds or  
12 takes away responsibilities for the Public Service  
13 Commission. An example of this is the comprehensive  
14 energy laws that were passed by the Michigan legislature  
15 and signed into law by the Governor in 2016, and that's  
16 what really brings us here today. The 2016 laws, Public  
17 Acts 341 and 342, instituted a new integrated resource  
18 planning process the Commission administers for electric  
19 utilities that are under our jurisdiction.

20 The MPSC, the Public Service Commission  
21 technical staff, worked with stakeholders after the  
22 legislation was passed to set up the parameters for how  
23 we should consider different options and conduct these  
24 proceedings, they also established a filing schedule. So  
25 we've had a number of cases; we recently approved

1 Consumers Energy's Integrated Resource Plan on June 7, so  
2 just this month, and then we have other cases involving  
3 utilities in the Upper Peninsula that are also pending in  
4 addition to DTE's.

5 Again, these plans examine options for  
6 meeting customer demand. We consider costs, reliability,  
7 environmental impacts, and other factors. And we will  
8 have a staff presentation to go into more detail about  
9 DTE's proposal, the process, and the decision criteria  
10 that the Commission is subject to under the law.

11 I just want to stress that Integrated  
12 Resource Plans are not a one-size-fits-all approach, so  
13 while we look holistically at the state and how we're  
14 going to meet our energy needs in the future, there is  
15 nuance for particular utilities, the types of generation  
16 they currently have, and what sort of needs going  
17 forward. So it's important for us to take comment from  
18 the public to get a sense of the sentiments and thoughts  
19 of how the public wants the utility to operate and what  
20 sort of sources of power they have going forward. So  
21 thank you all for joining us, it's great to see this  
22 turnout.

23 I also just want to thank the college  
24 here, Wayne Community College, for providing these  
25 facilities, they're really quite ideal, and appreciate



1       their support of us.

2                   I also just want to note that we have  
3       formal proceedings under way at the Public Service  
4       Commission with expert witnesses that testify on the  
5       issues in this case, in the Integrated Resource Plan, and  
6       conduct an assessment and review of the various  
7       assumptions and results, and this includes the Public  
8       Service Commission's technical staff. In the Consumers'  
9       case, for example, we had about 19 staff witnesses that  
10      addressed various aspects of the plan, so there's an  
11      extensive process that goes into it. The hearing is  
12      before an administrative law judge, and the Public  
13      Service Commission will issue a decision in this case in,  
14      it's 300 days from the date of filing, which is later  
15      this fall.

16                   And I just want to, before I turn it  
17      over, Cathy Cole is an engineer on our staff and directs  
18      our Strategic Operations Group, she's going to give the  
19      presentation before we get started and take public  
20      comments. But I want to just acknowledge the staff we  
21      have in the room, many in the back, and helped on the way  
22      in with the registrations. If staff just wants to waive  
23      their hand. If you have any questions, you didn't get a  
24      card, or want additional information, please reach out to  
25      our staff. We also have staff from the Department of

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1 Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy that are also here  
2 and available to assist.

3 And before I turn over to Cathy, I just  
4 want each of my fellow Commissioners to make brief  
5 introductions.

6 MR. SAARI: Thank you. My name is Norm  
7 Saari, I have been a Commissioner for four years.  
8 Previously I had clerked for ten years in the state  
9 legislature in the Governor's office, and prior to that I  
10 worked for an outstate utility for three decades.

11 The reason we're here today is because  
12 the way the Commission operates best is in a  
13 participation mode. As much as we'd like to engage in  
14 discussion and dialogue, the Commissioners, it's an open  
15 record and not all parties to the case are here, so  
16 anything we say can't be considered because not all  
17 parties are here. So we're available, I know that this  
18 day is broken into two sessions, we'll take a little  
19 break after the first session, and we're certainly around  
20 to talk as much as we can during that period of time.

21 But I can tell you how gratifying it is  
22 to see this audience here. A year ago we had the public  
23 meeting for Consumers Energy's IRP in Grand Rapids, there  
24 were less than a dozen members of the public there. A  
25 month ago we had a public meeting in Escanaba in the

1 Upper Peninsula for UPPCO, Upper Peninsula Power Company,  
2 we had about 25 members of the public there. So thank  
3 you, Detroiters, for coming out.

4 I went Pasteur Elementary School, so.  
5 It's important, never let it be said that your voices are  
6 not going to be heard or should not be heard, that's why  
7 we're here, and we won't leave until you people say that  
8 you've told us all that you want to tell us under the  
9 time limits that we have available. So thank you for  
10 your participation today.

11 MR. SCRIPPS: My name is Dan Scripps, I'm  
12 the third of the three Public Service Commissioners.  
13 Norm's been here for four years, I've been here for four  
14 months, so I was appointed earlier this year. My  
15 background, I'm an attorney, I served one term in the  
16 Michigan House, and most recently was the policy program  
17 director for a group called The Energy Foundation  
18 covering 13 states in the midwest and plains working on a  
19 variety of issues, including working to double regional  
20 grant-making to organizations working at the intersection  
21 of climate and equity.

22 I am really happy to be here. We are  
23 based in Lansing, as is most of state government, but I  
24 think it's important that we also from time to time get  
25 out of Lansing and have the opportunity to hear directly

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1 from the people, from the people who are most affected by  
2 the plan put forward and by the decisions we make, and to  
3 that end, I'm particularly happy to see so many young  
4 people here today, the folks who brought their kids with  
5 them, it's really important because it's really -- this  
6 is a long-term plan and it's their future that we're  
7 talking about. So I'll stop my remarks there, but I am  
8 pleased to be here and look forward to hearing what all  
9 of you have to say.

10 MS. TALBERG: So Cathy Cole.

11 MS. COLE: Thank you so much everyone for  
12 turning out tonight, this is an excellent turnout, we're  
13 so happy that you're here.

14 Before we get started with the public  
15 comment, we're going to take just a few minutes to talk  
16 about Integrated Resource Plans and what they are and  
17 DTE's filing as well. And to start things off -- I'll  
18 turn this on -- the Public Service Commission: The  
19 mission of the Public Service Commission is to protect  
20 the public by ensuring safe, reliable, and accessible  
21 energy and telecommunications services at reasonable  
22 rates for all of Michigan's residents.

23 So tonight we're going to talk about  
24 Integrated Resource Plans, what they are, what they  
25 include, and we're going to talk about DTE's filing just

1 a little bit, as well as the review process that takes  
2 place before the Commission, and then we're going to hear  
3 from all of you. That's really the purpose for tonight.  
4 If you would like to speak tonight and you have not  
5 filled out a comment card, there are cards at the back  
6 table, we need you to fill out a card so that the Judge  
7 will be able to call you up to speak. If you would like  
8 to submit written comments, there's ways that you can do  
9 that, too, they have the information at the back table  
10 for that as well.

11 So an Integrated Resource Plan is a  
12 long-term plan, it outlines the strategy for how an  
13 electric utility is going to serve its customers, and  
14 according to the Michigan statute, it's over the next 5,  
15 10, and 15 years. So they're making long-term decisions  
16 in this plan right now, and it's supposed to outline how  
17 they will provide reliable, cost-effective electric  
18 service to their customers while addressing risks and  
19 uncertainties inherent in the utility industry.

20 So risks and uncertainties. There's  
21 risks with things that are going to change between now  
22 and the next 15 years, whether that's related to advances  
23 in technologies that don't exist today that may exist at  
24 some point in the future, or if it's fuel prices or load  
25 growth or the adoption of electric vehicles, there are

1 lots of different things that could make things change  
2 over the next 15 years, that's what's meant by addressing  
3 the risks and the uncertainties that are inherent in the  
4 plan.

5 There are IRP application filing  
6 requirements, and that includes things that the utilities  
7 are supposed to include in their application, the  
8 supporting and expert witness testimony, and any exhibits  
9 and the workpapers. The filing requirements include all  
10 of these things you see on the screen, like their  
11 existing and planned renewable energy, their existing and  
12 planned new generation, their demand-side resources,  
13 electric transmission alternatives that may be used to  
14 help serve the customers, energy waste reduction, which  
15 is another term for energy efficiency; they also have to  
16 include information about reliability, which is ensuring  
17 that they're going to be able to serve all of the  
18 customers all hours of the day and night, including the  
19 peak when the demand is at the highest point, as well as  
20 environmental regulations. One of the reasons they have  
21 to supply information regarding the environmental  
22 regulations is that the current law actually specifies  
23 that the Department of Environmental Quality, which is  
24 now the Department of the Environment, Great Lakes, and  
25 Energy, and Brianna is here in the back of the room from

1 the EGLE, Department of Environment, Great Lakes, Energy,  
2 they review the IRP application and all of the supporting  
3 testimony and workpapers to make sure that they're going  
4 to be able to comply with all existing and proposed  
5 environmental regulations at both the state and federal  
6 level.

7 So these application requirements were  
8 developed through a stakeholder process in 2017. There  
9 were five stakeholder meetings held, there were two  
10 rounds of informal comments, and there was one round of  
11 formal comments and reply comments directly to the  
12 Commission in the docket that informed all of the  
13 information that has to be included in an Integrated  
14 Resource Plan application and filing from a utility.

15 PA 341, Section 16, which is the law that  
16 outlines the IRP provisions, includes a bunch of specific  
17 things that the utilities have to include, and part of  
18 what they have to include are required modeling scenarios  
19 and sensitivities as approved by the Commission. These  
20 are different visions of the future.

21 So the first one that was developed is  
22 called Business as Usual, and it just assumes that  
23 tomorrow is going to be pretty much the same as today, 5  
24 years from now is going to be pretty much the same as  
25 today, and so is 10 years from now and 15 years from now,

1 both with the fuel prices, the load growth, the different  
2 types of resource technologies that are available, so it  
3 does not make any assumptions about advances in  
4 technology or changes in prices. Pretty much the status  
5 quo.

6 Emerging Technologies is a completely  
7 different scenario where a 35-percent cost reduction is  
8 assumed for emerging technologies, and that includes  
9 things like energy efficiency, demand response,  
10 small-scale solar, large-scale solar, lots of different  
11 things, distributed energy resources. So the Emerging  
12 Technologies has prescribed cost reductions that they  
13 have to model, assuming that that would be a possibility  
14 that could happen in the future to see how that would  
15 affect the plants going forward.

16 The High Market Price Variant is a  
17 scenario that was developed just for the Upper Peninsula  
18 utilities, and the reason that that one is for the Upper  
19 Peninsula is that they tend to import a lot of their  
20 resources from Wisconsin, they don't own a lot of their  
21 own resources in the U.P., so they have a special  
22 scenario looking at changes in market prices.

23 Environmental Policy is a scenario that  
24 was developed to look at a hard cap on carbon emissions,  
25 and the hard cap that is included in the requirements for



1 the Environmental Policy scenario is a 30-percent  
2 reduction in carbon from 2005 levels by 2030.

3 So these scenarios were developed through  
4 a stakeholder process as well. There were actually nine  
5 different subcommittee workgroups that helped develop the  
6 scenarios and the sensitivities and all of the different  
7 modeling parameters; that was done through 13  
8 stakeholders meetings, consultation with Lawrence  
9 Berkeley National Laboratory, and then after they were  
10 developed, there was three public hearings that were held  
11 across the state to take comments from the public on  
12 these required scenarios and sensitivities.

13 The other thing that's important to know  
14 is that these were developed in 2017, and the IRP law  
15 includes a requirement that they be refreshed, redone,  
16 and then that whole stakeholder process and public  
17 comment period happens again every five years, at least  
18 every five years because the world is changing around us  
19 and we need to be able to change what we're planning for  
20 at the same time, so that will be coming up in a couple  
21 more years, we'll start working on revising those  
22 required scenarios and sensitivities.

23 So let's talk about the IRP process. It  
24 starts with an application from the utility with their  
25 proposed plan going forward, and it talks about how they

1 develop that plan, all the modeling they did, lots of  
2 expert witness testimony. There is a time that is  
3 allowed for people to intervene and become official  
4 parties to the case. When they do become initial [sic]  
5 parties to the case, they are allowed to submit  
6 testimony. So where we are right now in the process,  
7 DTE's already filed, and we're right here, we're in  
8 between the filing and the staff and intervenor  
9 testimony, and I think the staff and intervenor testimony  
10 is due the third week of July. So it will continue  
11 through some legal briefs and things that happen after  
12 the testimony is filed, and eventually there will be a  
13 decision from an administrative law judge.

14 After that, the Commission is supposed to  
15 issue an order within 300 days on DTE's plan. They have  
16 three options: They can approve the IRP; they can deny  
17 the IRP; or they can suggest changes to the IRP. If the  
18 IRP is approved by the Commission, it includes  
19 preapproval for the recovery of costs for resources that  
20 are included in the first three years of the Integrated  
21 Resource Plan. If they deny the IRP, there's provisions  
22 in the law where DTE could then resubmit another  
23 application within 60 days, and then there's a short  
24 turnaround time to have another process to review and  
25 consider it for approval. If the Commission wants to

1 submit changes to an IRP, the law prescribes 30 days to  
2 submit with changes, and then there's another 30 days to  
3 review those changes and issue a final order within 360  
4 days. This entire process is laid out in the law, it's  
5 something that enables the Commission to make its  
6 decisions, and it's something that we have to follow.

7 Also laid out in the statute are the  
8 review criteria for an IRP. So the MPSC, the  
9 Commissioners sitting right here, must determine whether  
10 an electric utility's IRP is the most reasonable and  
11 prudent means of meeting energy and capacity needs by  
12 considering whether the plan appropriately balances all  
13 of the following:

14 Resource adequacy. So resource adequacy  
15 means do they have enough resources between supply-side  
16 resources and demand-side resources to meet the summer  
17 peak load, which is when all the customers have their air  
18 conditioning turned on to the max, and then they need to  
19 have a little bit of buffer above that to meet a planning  
20 reserve margin. So they have to be able to meet resource  
21 adequacy requirements.

22 They have to comply with all applicable  
23 environmental regulations.

24 There are specific provisions in the law  
25 related to competitive pricing. Any new supply-side

1 resource that is proposed within the first three years of  
2 the plan must go out for a request for proposals, an RFP,  
3 which is another way of saying they have to go out and  
4 get bids for it.

5 Reliability. So resource adequacy is  
6 sort of like reliability, but reliability is all hours of  
7 the year; they need to be able to supply energy to their  
8 customers all the time, enough supply to do that.

9 Commodity price risks. Natural gas, you  
10 know, when I started with the Commission several years  
11 ago, it was somewhat volatile; it's been lower in price  
12 right now, but whether or not it's going to stay that  
13 way, we don't really know. So fuel prices, construction  
14 materials prices, things like the tariffs going on at the  
15 federal level, there's lots of different things that  
16 could bring risk to the price of a project.

17 Diversification of generation supply. So  
18 that's important because they need to serve all the  
19 customers all the time, they need to make sure that if  
20 all of a sudden there was no more natural gas for  
21 whatever reason, that they would still be able to serve  
22 all of their customers; and if, for instance, they only  
23 had natural gas generation or if they had a significant  
24 amount of natural gas generation without anything else,  
25 then they would be at risk. So diversity of generation

1 supply, having a good mix of different things so that if  
2 one thing is it not available, there are lots of other  
3 things that they can use to serve their customers.

4 And then whether the proposed levels of  
5 peak load load reduction and energy waste reduction are  
6 reasonable and cost effective.

7 So the Commission has to consider a lot  
8 of different things when they're reviewing an IRP and  
9 deciding whether or not it should be approved.

10 DTE filed their IRP with the Commission  
11 on March 29. You're able to access that filing at the  
12 MPSC's website, the E-dockets tab under the Case No.  
13 20471, or you can access the application right here with  
14 these QR codes with your phone. The reason there's two  
15 QR codes, the application is 1,300 pages long, so it's  
16 divided into two files just due to file size.

17 So after they filed, there was a time  
18 where people could submit interventions to the case. All  
19 of these different parties that you see on the screen  
20 have intervened in the case. There's 18 different  
21 intervenors, and they represent all different types of  
22 interests. There is the Attorney General representing  
23 the interests of everyone in the state of Michigan, ABATE  
24 represents large business customers, we have lots of  
25 environmental and renewable support here, we have

1 transmission and public power as well.

2 So at the same time that DTE filed their  
3 IRP, they also publicly announced carbon reduction goals.  
4 They are planning to reduce their carbon level from 2005  
5 levels by 50 percent by 2030, so that's above and beyond  
6 what's prescribed in the Commission's Environmental  
7 Policy scenario. They've also committed publicly to an  
8 80-percent reduction by 2040, and they're primarily doing  
9 that by retiring coal plants early. They're retiring the  
10 St. Clair Power Plant in 2022, River Rouge is going to be  
11 converted to natural gas in 2020, and the Trenton Power  
12 Plant will be retired in 2022.

13 So prior to the IRP, this was in 2018,  
14 DTE filed an application for approval the Blue Water  
15 Energy Center. It was approved by the Commission in  
16 April of 2018, they broke ground on the project this  
17 year, they just came in and gave a status review of the  
18 project. It is a natural-gas-fired power plant,  
19 1,150 megawatts, it's supposed to be operational in 2022.  
20 So that was already approved, but it is mentioned in  
21 their plan.

22 And in that approval of that natural-gas-  
23 fired power plant, the Commission requested some specific  
24 things of DTE in this IRP case. They requested that the  
25 Company include an additional scenario that included only

1 energy efficiency, renewable energy, demand response,  
2 storage, and other non-fossil fuel options, ramping up  
3 over the years preceding 2029, and they also required DTE  
4 to provide an updated rate impact analysis of that  
5 proposed gas plant.

6 So moving on to their IRP filing. DTE  
7 has included the required scenarios, which was Business  
8 as Usual, Emerging Technology, and the Environmental  
9 Policy. These -- information was taken directly from  
10 their application. They also included a DTE Reference  
11 Scenario, and the main difference is that they utilized  
12 their own gas price forecast, and they incorporated the  
13 DTE carbon reduction targets that we just talked about,  
14 and also their current plan to retire some of those coal  
15 plants early.

16 They did a lot of modeling, and what  
17 we're showing here on the screen from their application  
18 is some of the modeling output. For instance, in each  
19 one of these scenarios, they looked at three different  
20 levels of energy waste reduction or energy efficiency.  
21 So in the Environmental Policy case, with 1 1/2-percent  
22 energy efficiency, the model told them that they needed  
23 216 megawatts of demand response and 3,300 megawatts of  
24 wind to meet their needs in 2029 to 2030. If they  
25 increased this 1 1/2-percent energy efficiency up to

1 2 percent, then they needed only 1,050 megawatts of wind.  
2 So that's what all this means. In their DTE Reference  
3 case, with 1 1/2-percent energy efficiency, they would  
4 need to build a 414-megawatt natural gas combined-cycle,  
5 and have 259 megawatts of demand response. If they went  
6 all the way up to 2 1/2-percent energy efficiency, all  
7 they would build is one single 414-megawatt combined-  
8 cycle turbine.

9 So lots of different situations were  
10 analyzed, and it led them to this proposed course of  
11 action. The proposed course of action includes new  
12 renewable energy, such as an 11-megawatt pilot program of  
13 solar plus storage, an additional 693 megawatts of wind  
14 energy, plus an expansion of their Voluntary Green  
15 Pricing Program, which would be more wind in the range of  
16 465 megawatts to 715 megawatts. If you're not familiar  
17 with the Voluntary Green Pricing Program, it's something  
18 that the large customers request, it says I want green  
19 energy, and so they're adding green energy specifically  
20 for those customers.

21 Coal plant retirements, we just went over  
22 some of their coal plant retirements, and they're also  
23 including increases in energy waste reduction or energy  
24 efficiency up to 1.65 percent in 2020, 1.75 percent in  
25 2021; the law only requires 1 percent. They're



1 increasing their demand response programs to  
2 859 megawatts by 2024; that's a substantial amount,  
3 almost as much as that gas plant they're building. So  
4 that in a nutshell is what DTE is proposing in its IRP.

5 We've come to the time where we want to  
6 hear from you, we'd like to hear your public comments.  
7 And if you'd like to submit written comments, this is how  
8 you're going to do it via e-mail. There's also cards  
9 that you can pick up on the back table if you don't have  
10 time to write all this down where you can then go ahead  
11 and submit your public comments in writing.

12 I'm going to turn it over to the ALJ now  
13 so we can hear from you.

14 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Cathy. Before I  
15 begin the public comments, I would just like to make a  
16 few points. First, I ask that you address your comments  
17 to the Commissioners. Second, as Commissioner Saari  
18 indicated, the Commission will be rendering the final  
19 decision in this case, so they can not take questions  
20 during the public comments. As indicated, the court  
21 reporter is transcribing this meeting, so as I didn't do,  
22 please speak up. The speakers, if they would, could you  
23 provide your name and your city of residence, and limit  
24 the comments to the matters raised in DTE's application.  
25 And finally, I'd like to note that the notice indicates a

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1 five-minute period for each statement. I ask that the  
2 speakers understand that we have a large turnout today,  
3 the Commissioners want to hear from everyone, so if they  
4 could be aware of that, we would appreciate it. And as  
5 always, if you so choose, as Cathy indicated, you can  
6 file your public comments on the E-docket.

7 And so with that, we will call up the  
8 first speaker, and that is Jane Garcia.

9 MS. GARCIA: O.K. Buenos traves,  
10 Commissioners. Thank you very much, Judge Mack, thank  
11 you very much for coming to Detroit. Welcome to all our  
12 Michiganders and my fellow residents. Detroit is always  
13 left out, and we appreciate you taking that extra time,  
14 you don't know.

15 LA SED is the oldest Hispanic advocacy  
16 agency in southwest Detroit, servicing the metropolitan  
17 area for over 50 years. We care very much about the  
18 Michigan energy future, we really do. We understand the  
19 vital importance to clean, affordable, reliable energy  
20 for everyone, especially people of low income. I just --  
21 is that too loud? I'll step back a little bit.

22 I'm here today to support DTE. Their  
23 plan to promote fairness, inclusion for everyone, the  
24 clean air through their new technology, expansion of  
25 renewable plan to benefit everyone throughout Michigan.

1                   Climate change must be combated, but we  
2                   need to make it transparent for everyone, and that's why  
3                   we need to stress the most vulnerable population and how  
4                   they're going to service them. I appreciate DTE's focus  
5                   in this area. Their plan benefits not only residents,  
6                   but business. I can't begin to tell you how important  
7                   that is to the businesses with everything going up, they  
8                   always talk about the energy. I'm not sure how solar is  
9                   going to come out, we only had 78 days of sunshine last  
10                  year, but I know that the wind is something I think  
11                  people are really looking at for Michigan. I'm hoping  
12                  that you all will support the plan. And (inaudible)  
13                  gracias for the opportunity to speak to you tonight.  
14                  Gracias.

15                   JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Ms. Garcia.  
16                  Next, Bridget Vial.

17                   MS. VIAL: Hi, everyone. Thanks for the  
18                  opportunity to talk today. My name is Bridget, I am a  
19                  resident of Royal Oak, an environmental engineer.

20                   I've been working in southwest Detroit  
21                  for the last several years, and a close colleague of mine  
22                  and a good friend had a real struggle with DTE the last  
23                  couple of years, she had an energy bill that was in the  
24                  multiple thousands of dollars and was repeatedly  
25                  struggling to work with DTE to get someone to help her

1 find out why her bill was so high and also to get on a  
2 payment plan, you know, be able to pay it off, and she  
3 had such a frustrating time every time she was talking to  
4 people at DTE, she was talking to someone else who didn't  
5 understand what she was going through, and was bounced  
6 around from one person to the next. And this is in a  
7 part of southwest Detroit where the trains that carry the  
8 coal are stopping cars for 30 or 35 minutes as they're  
9 trying to get to their house, and I have been sitting in  
10 front of those trains and watching the coal and the  
11 particulate fall off those train tracks; it's a part of  
12 southwest Detroit where the power was off for three days  
13 last winter.

14 And so I want to say, as a resident of  
15 Royal Oak, I don't have to worry about breathing in the  
16 effects of the energy that I consume, but I don't want to  
17 consume energy that creates health hazards, I mean a real  
18 health liability for people in black and brown  
19 communities here in Detroit or in anywhere, I mean  
20 wherever we're building a new natural gas plant as well,  
21 I don't want to consume natural gas that was fracked in  
22 Pennsylvania or other parts of Michigan that's now  
23 polluting those groundwater sources.

24 And frankly, it's hard to understand why  
25 we're not moving more aggressively towards solar in this

1       IRP that DTE has put forward when, according to the  
2       Energy Information Agency, I mean varying by region, in  
3       2023 solar and wind energy is expected to be at the same  
4       price or lower than combined-cycle natural gas; why  
5       should we be paying a premium for solar through the  
6       Voluntary Green Pricing Program, and why aren't we seeing  
7       the same investments, why isn't DTE making the same move  
8       toward solar that Consumers is making. It's clearly  
9       viable. Consumers is looking to add 5,000 megawatts;  
10      that's like 10 times what DTE is talking about adding by  
11      2030. So it seems to me that this plan doesn't really  
12      take seriously the effects of climate change, and it  
13      doesn't really take seriously the viability of renewable  
14      energy, and I want to urge the Commission to send DTE  
15      back to the drawing board and work on a plan that is  
16      going to work for us in the future.

17                   JUDGE MACK: Thank you. Thank you,  
18      Ms. Vial. If anyone is reading from prepared remarks and  
19      if they are so inclined, if they could share it with the  
20      court reporter so the transcript accurately represents  
21      what they're saying, I know she would appreciate it.

22                   Next we have Emily, and the name rather  
23      smudged, Pre --

24                   MS. PREHODA: Prehoda.

25                   JUDGE MACK: Prehoda.

1 MS. PREHODA: Prehoda, P-r-e-h-o-d-a, and  
2 Muskegon, Michigan. Good evening, Commissioners. Thank  
3 you for holding this event, this is a great  
4 opportunity --

5 UNIDENTIFIED: Could you move the mic,  
6 please. I can't hear you.

7 MS. PREHODA: Oh, yes. Thank you. Is  
8 that better?

9 UNIDENTIFIED: Yes.

10 MS. PREHODA: O.K. I am speaking on  
11 behalf of the GLREA and Chart House Energy. And from our  
12 perspective, DTE's practices with the existing laws and  
13 policies favors a self-serving future that is reliant on  
14 fossil-fuel burning technologies, while simultaneously  
15 thwarting competition which burdens their customers. So  
16 we want to search for efficient, lower-cost energy  
17 solutions for utility customers.

18 DTE Energy's IRP is neither prudent and  
19 reasonable, nor will its outcomes on rates be fair and  
20 reasonable. By refusing to incorporate and support  
21 third-party sources of energy through PURPA and net  
22 metering, DTE is not providing the lowest cost service to  
23 its customers. DTE Energy's lack of bidding future  
24 energy builds out to third parties also results in higher  
25 costs to future and current ratepayers. The recent DTE

1 rate case resulted in a decreased outflow rate of 7.477  
2 cents per kilowatt hour. As this is supposedly a fair  
3 and reasonable rate, DTE should no longer limit the  
4 amount of DG systems.

5 DTE Energy's IRP represents an adherence  
6 to the traditional utility model with little effort to  
7 embrace the changing times of favoring decentralized  
8 generation and control. DTE plans to build and own  
9 639 megawatts of wind and only 11 megawatts of solar,  
10 none of which will be bid to third parties; but they do  
11 plan to build and own more costly and risky gas plants in  
12 addition to the 1,100-megawatt plant currently under  
13 construction. DTE plans a big rollout of wind resources  
14 in the coming years. This is great as wind and solar  
15 continue to be cost-competitive with gas, yet DTE chooses  
16 to continue investing in gas plants rather than a true  
17 investment in affordable solar energy to complement those  
18 wind resources. DTE plans to offer a Voluntary Green  
19 Power Pricing Program and charge smaller customers a  
20 premium, which in turn supports DTE Energy investments in  
21 wind and solar, allowing them to double dip on cost  
22 recovery. This represents discrimination against smaller  
23 customers as larger customers can purchase green power at  
24 cheaper rates compared to those smaller customers.

25 DTE Energy hand picks factors that are  
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1 unfavorable to renewables and storage in future modeling  
2 scenarios. They utilize cost of service studies to  
3 manipulate a future that favors natural gas plants. DTE  
4 Business as Usual and Emerging Technology modeling  
5 scenarios report higher levelized costs of energy of  
6 solar and wind compared to other trusted and utilized  
7 reports, such EIA and Lazard, among other valuation  
8 studies. Comparatively, DTE models a lower levelized  
9 cost of natural gas than these same data sources. DTE  
10 argues storage solutions are uneconomical, yet they  
11 didn't model any ancillary services valuations when  
12 modeling these storage alternatives.

13 DTE's apparent manipulations of federal  
14 and state laws create an uncertain future for the third-  
15 party solar industry. The IRP process is manipulation  
16 itself. The three- to five-year window locks in the plan  
17 and cost recovery, thus removing some regulatory power  
18 from the MPSC. DTE Energy argues they do not have a  
19 capacity need and therefore should not be required to  
20 address PURPA; however, they are closing almost  
21 2,000 megawatts in the next three years, and more in  
22 coming years. This manipulation hurts ratepayers and  
23 developers by not seeking out cheaper forms of renewable  
24 energy; plus DTE is planning a pathway to 414 megawatts  
25 in additional gas plant capacity. This questions the



1       notion they do not have a capacity need. DTE has  
2       unapproved solar interconnection application requests  
3       stretching back to February of 2017. There is currently  
4       no penalty or fine for meeting the deadlines -- for not  
5       meeting the deadlines set by the MPSC. These delays are  
6       a manipulation that threatens the advanced energy  
7       industry. And finally, DTE Energy manipulates PURPA  
8       through proposed changes to the standard offer contract  
9       and terms. DTE proposes shortening the PURPA contract to  
10      ten years and reducing capacity limits to 150 kW. This  
11      manipulation will make PURPA contracts less economical  
12      for developers, while simultaneously being more  
13      economical for DTE.

14               Instead of the apparent manipulation of  
15      the system, we ask that DTE works with the MPSC and  
16      third-party renewable developers to walk the walk to  
17      leading the way to a cleaner, safer, and smarter energy  
18      future, which they advance as their top aspiration.  
19      Thank you very much.

20               JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Ms. Prehoda.  
21      Next, Rob Rafson.

22               MR. RAFSON: Good evening. I'm Rob  
23      Rafson, Chart House Energy, a renewable energy developer  
24      in the state. I'm also here on behalf of GLREA, and I'm  
25      an expert witness on their cases.

1 I think it's important -- I appreciate  
2 the Commission taking the time and effort to listen to  
3 all of us out here and to understand what our concerns  
4 are. I think one of my primary issues with the process  
5 in general is that it's very difficult for us to  
6 understand some of these plans and resources, and I hope  
7 that you guys work with DTE to produce documents that are  
8 simple, understandable, they reach out and get public  
9 acceptance, they're as free from controversy as possible,  
10 they produce an effective yield for total revenues under  
11 the fair returns standard, and that they avoid undue  
12 discrimination.

13 Under the Act, under the Public Service  
14 Act 259 and 341, it promotes clean and renewable energy,  
15 diverse resources, and provides energy security through  
16 indigenous resources, which is also renewable energy, and  
17 encourages private investment for renewable energy and  
18 waste reduction. DTE's IRP fails to meet most of the  
19 Act's obligations, and I mean that's a real problem.

20 I think it would be -- PURPA developers  
21 and behind-the-meter customers could help us rapidly  
22 switch to renewable energy to produce diverse,  
23 indigenous, private, which is always cheaper than public,  
24 power generation, cleaner, and create more and better  
25 good paying jobs here in the state. By DTE's almost

1 exclusive interest in fossil fuel power generation and  
2 some wind, which they own, it will produce less good  
3 paying jobs for people in the communities.

4 The legis -- the IRP also doesn't even  
5 address any of the issues under PURPA, which is like the  
6 gorilla in the room, because these contractors and  
7 developers have a legal, enforceable obligation to  
8 address those. I was thrilled to see that last week or  
9 the week before Consumers has addressed the PURPA issue,  
10 it is unfortunate that DTE has not taken that same stand  
11 and moved forward on it. It is cheaper, always cheaper  
12 for a PURPA-developed power plant than anything that the  
13 utilities would have. The IRP fails to address PURPA  
14 through a series of different ways. It fails to raise  
15 the minimum 1-percent net metering obligation, it does  
16 not include or address storage.

17 I saw recently the MISO planner talking  
18 about storage, and he says it's sort of like Pinocchio.  
19 We've been playing with this toy, storage, for many  
20 years, and finally under the FERC 841, they suddenly now  
21 have to deal with storage and the pricing thereof, and so  
22 now it's a boy that they have to address and bring into  
23 society and figure out how to integrate it.

24 Lastly, I'd like to say that the, they  
25 did not address EV, electric vehicle charging, which I

1 think will increase capacity by at least 1 percent. And  
2 I think it's important that you hold DTE's feet to fire  
3 and include language that would automatically release  
4 capacity to developers and customers to build their own  
5 renewable energy if they fail to meet the objective -- or  
6 the parts of their plan. Thank you.

7 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Mr. Rafson.

8 Next. Next, Pastor John Hearn.

9 PASTOR HEARN: Good afternoon. I'm  
10 Pastor John Hearn representing Christian Faith Ministries  
11 of Garden City. At Christian Faith, we are a ministry  
12 dedicated to four key principles: That is to teach the  
13 word and to equip the saints and to demonstrate the power  
14 thereof; additionally, to impact the world.

15 One of the roles of our church is to make  
16 sure that the spiritual and emotional and physical needs  
17 of the community are met. Speaking of, in support of the  
18 principles that, and the policies that allow for reliable  
19 and affordable energy for the people that I service and  
20 the role that I occupy. My church has an international  
21 outreach, I've been in areas where energy has not been  
22 very reliable, has not been very affordable. It gives me  
23 a great deal of pleasure every time I come back home  
24 knowing that when I can flip the switch, the light is  
25 going to come on.

1 DTE has been the primary supplier of the  
2 energy for our area for a number of years, and with  
3 regards to what they are asking you for and the plan  
4 they've put forward, it addresses the needs, the needs of  
5 our community in the respect that we all want clean air,  
6 we want a healthy environment to live in, and they put  
7 forth a plan that will convert their energy capacity to  
8 an area where all of us can be happy.

9 It's been said to me in the past, it's  
10 not easy to turn the battleship around in the middle of a  
11 narrow river. DTE is a big company, it's going to take a  
12 while for them to shift their capacity, and we need to  
13 give them the time to do it. And it's not that they're  
14 ignoring the environmental impact, they put a plan in  
15 place that will address that impact and reduce their  
16 carbon footprint, and that's something that we are all in  
17 favor of. And in doing this, in going through this  
18 process, it's -- I'm glad of the fact that they are  
19 keeping things in place that will ensure that in this  
20 transition, we will still have a reliable source of  
21 energy. I'd rather them not just flip the switch off on  
22 all of their plants suddenly and we are at the whims of  
23 the wind and the sun. The wind doesn't blow every day  
24 and the sun doesn't shine every day, so we have to  
25 invest; and as they are making this transition, we need

1 to make sure that the fail-safes are in place so that we  
2 all can enjoy the lifestyles that we have come to enjoy.

3 So with that being said, I stand in favor  
4 of their proposal. Thank you.

5 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Pastor Hearn.  
6 Next, Justin Schott.

7 MR. SCHOTT: Good afternoon,  
8 Commissioners. Thank you for coming to Detroit to hear  
9 from the people today.

10 So in looking at the definition of what  
11 an Integrated Resource Plan needs to do, it needs to seek  
12 to fully maximize potential benefits to ratepayers in  
13 lowering the utility bills, and the Commission needs to  
14 consider factors that include competitive pricing and  
15 diversity of generation supply in its decision on the  
16 proposed IRP. So these are areas of discretion, and in  
17 looking at these I think it's important to look at the  
18 record of DTE and its commitment to long-term  
19 affordability and reliability.

20 So DTE, coincident with its approval of  
21 the Blue Water Gas Plant, received an approval to  
22 increase its residential rates by 8.7 percent, the  
23 increase for residents was double that of what it was to  
24 commercial customers, and 3 1/2 times the increase to  
25 industrial customers. Among all the states, Michigan now

1 ranks near the bottom, at 41st according to MPSC's own  
2 scorecard, for the cost of residential electric rates.  
3 It's also 45th in the gap between residential rates and  
4 commercial and industrial rates. So just five from the  
5 bottom in how much of the burden of the costs get put on  
6 the backs of residents, especially low-income residents.  
7 These rate increases come on the backs of other recent  
8 increases: 1.4 percent in April 2018, 4 percent in  
9 February 2017, and 9.9-percent increase in gas rates in  
10 December 2016, and an 11.2-percent increase in electric  
11 rates in 2015, at which time the commercial rates only  
12 rose 3.4 percent and primary rates actually decreased by  
13 2.3 percent. So it seems that all the gas infrastructure  
14 that DTE continues to invest in, the burden of those  
15 costs continue to fall on low-income residents and DTE's  
16 customers.

17 So now looking at the IRP plan that  
18 they've put forward and its proposed course of action,  
19 DTE is coming at the bottom of what's possible here in  
20 terms of energy efficiency, in terms of renewable  
21 generation, and in terms of enabling distributed  
22 generation, which would increase resilience to the grid  
23 and enable everyday residents and customers to take part  
24 in the economic benefits of a solar energy economy. And  
25 DTE has about a quarter of its business interests are in

1 a natural gas infrastructure that are outside of  
2 providing electric and gas service to Michigan residents,  
3 these would clearly be benefited by the Integrated  
4 Resource Plan that DTE put forward if they're able to  
5 again ramp up demand for that, the gas that it's bringing  
6 from Pennsylvania and Ohio into Michigan.

7 DTE has also actively campaigned,  
8 bringing dark money into campaigns like the Michigan  
9 Energy Promise and the Alliance for Michigan Energy,  
10 targeting especially communities of color, asking them to  
11 sign on to support a campaign that many have been  
12 approached without full understanding. I know of at  
13 least one organization that's been listed against its  
14 will on this list of allies. The Michigan Public Service  
15 Commission has also advised Consumers Energy to stop  
16 putting dark money into these campaigns as a result of  
17 the support against Gary Glenn in the most recent  
18 election, so this is very political. And there are clear  
19 business interests for DTE in supporting a future that is  
20 wholly dependent here on fossil fuels and leaning toward  
21 additional natural gas generation after we've already had  
22 1,100 megawatts recently approved.

23 So it's hard to see how this is the most  
24 reasonable and prudent path forward for Michiganders, and  
25 I think under this plan, low-income residents will



1 continue to suffer both the costs of the additional  
2 generation as well as losing out on the [inaudible]  
3 climate benefits from a clean energy future. Thank you.

4 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Mr. Schott.

5 Next, Reverend Diedric Tupper.

6 REVEREND TUPPER: Good afternoon. I just  
7 wanted to say that I appreciate Michigan Public Service  
8 Commission and of course Judge Wallace [sic] for allowing  
9 us the opportunity to express ourselves here today. My  
10 name is Reverend Diedric Tupper, that is Dittrich, like  
11 Dittrich Furs, Tupper like Tupperware. And it's a  
12 pleasure to be here on this evening.

13 I know that sometimes it -- we have the  
14 propensity and the proclivity to move to the most easiest  
15 remedy, but as my father used to say all the time, slow  
16 and steady is the order of the day. Many times we try  
17 to -- sometimes we look for the path that's most easiest  
18 to traverse and the most simplest travail, but once  
19 again, slow and steady the order of the day.

20 It seems that we desire to move in a  
21 direction that will not afford us efficiency,  
22 reliability, and affordability, and so I'm here today  
23 because I know that DTE Energy has placed us in a  
24 position where we can depend upon a diversity of energy.  
25 As Dr. Hearn has indicated, we live in a wonderful state

1 called Michigan that enjoy four seasons, but we don't  
2 always see the light of the sun, nor do we always enjoy  
3 the coolness of the wind, so there needs to be a  
4 diversity of energy in order for it to be reliable to all  
5 of the residents here in Michigan.

6 I know that many times we look for the  
7 easiest way out, but it takes time, as Dr. Hearn  
8 indicated, it takes time to provide a reliable plan, and  
9 I am 100 percent in agreement with the proposal that DTE  
10 Energy has provided. We must understand that there  
11 should be a diversity of energy. We can not always  
12 depend on wind turbines, nor can we always depend on  
13 solar energy, but natural gas stabilizes the system and  
14 allows us to be able to depend upon an institution that  
15 we have to depend upon. Judge Wallace [sic], I may not  
16 always need the court system, but it is good to know that  
17 when I need the court system, that institution is there.  
18 So we have to depend on the reliability of the  
19 institution that we place ourself in.

20 I just want you to know and understand  
21 that I represent a group of constituents that depend on  
22 the stability of the utility system. It is our job -- I  
23 pastor a church called New Faith Temple Church of God in  
24 Christ. Our organization is throughout the state of  
25 Michigan and in 100 nations, including Israel, and one of

1 our primary purposes is to try to elevate individuals in  
2 our society. Part of that, part of that is to provide  
3 them with a sense of belonging. Part of that is to  
4 provide them with lifting them out of conditions that  
5 they're in. Part of that is providing them with a stable  
6 life, and of course energy is part of that. We did a  
7 needs assessments and we realized through a needs  
8 assessment that the first concern was job or career  
9 paths, the second concern was healthcare, and the third  
10 concern was, believe it or not, utility energy.

11 It is so vitally important and imperative  
12 that we have a diverse plan that DTE Energy has proposed  
13 to this Commission. And I beseech you even on today that  
14 you accept the plan that has been presented to us.  
15 Michigan is blessed with wind and sun, but we just cannot  
16 depend on it as a totality of source for energy.  
17 Receiving energy from resources like hydroelectric as  
18 well as natural gas undergirds, as we move towards  
19 renewable energy, undergirds the system and allows me to  
20 have confidence when I get home that I can hit that  
21 switch and the lights will come on.

22 A diverse mix of energy resources also  
23 protects customers' affordability. I want you to  
24 understand two things: Affordability and dependability.  
25 Affordability and dependability is essential for us as

1 Michigan residents, customers' affordability. My  
2 community wants a cleaner environment, but we also want  
3 affordability. We also want dependability. DTE's plans  
4 gets a reliable energy system along with access to  
5 affordable renewable energy and a path and a timeline  
6 that's essential for our citizens.

7 I'm just curious, I have not had an  
8 opportunity to look at the proposal submitted by  
9 Consumers Energy, but I'm just curious as it relate to  
10 what their proposal is compared to DTE Energy's proposal  
11 regarding aggressive renewable energy. Thank you so much  
12 for this time on tonight.

13 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Reverend Tupper.  
14 Next, Ken Zebarah.

15 MR. ZEBARAH: Thank you. Hi, good  
16 afternoon. Ken Zebarah, I live near Jackson, Michigan,  
17 in ClarkLake, and I work for Harvest Energy Solutions out  
18 of Jackson, and I'm on the board of directors for GLREA.

19 My notes say a lot of the same things  
20 that I've heard from Emily and Rob and several others, so  
21 I want to kind of focus on a couple other separate topics  
22 related. But, you know, as part of a family-owned small  
23 business and a science-minded parent, I hope that you  
24 can -- I hope that you guys will support the growth of  
25 renewables both for economic development and job growth,

1 in addition to health and environmental reasons.

2 I will like -- I would remind people  
3 that, the Commissioners and in the audience, that we  
4 operate in about 12 states throughout the midwest, and  
5 don't, do not consider solar and wind resource based on  
6 how many sunny days are in the -- you have in a year. We  
7 operate in about 12 states, and Michigan is most of the  
8 time the most cost-effective for behind-the-meter solar  
9 out of the entire midwest because it's offsetting a much  
10 higher rate than other states, and so I just wanted to  
11 remind that.

12 But job growth and economic development,  
13 I went to Eastern Michigan and got a degree in  
14 mathematics with a physics minor and another in business,  
15 and Harvest Energy hired me and we were, oh, maybe 8  
16 people just figuring stuff out and making stuff happen  
17 and growing a business, and now 7 years later we're over  
18 50 people and we are the actual boots on the ground and  
19 electricians and construction crews and engineers  
20 building solar arrays, not just financing and developing  
21 on paper and lobbying, but we are actually building them,  
22 and so it does create many jobs, and we're growing and  
23 hiring like crazy. So there is a big economic  
24 development portion there that I want to keep you in mind  
25 of.

1                   But one thing I will admit, I'm not an  
2                   expert on RECs. I know a bit about them, but one concern  
3                   that I'd like you to consider is DTE needs to -- needs to  
4                   consider all options for obtaining RECs, and I think  
5                   there are much more cost-effective ways to obtain RECs  
6                   and meet RPS than what they're proposing. The behind-  
7                   the-meter customers, and whether it's PURPA, you know,  
8                   new PURPA or new solar arrays or existing Category 1 and  
9                   Category 2 projects, probably 90 percent or more of them  
10                  don't sell their RECs to anybody, they're not doing  
11                  anything, and DTE could buy those for so cheap, for  
12                  almost nothing. That is a -- they're just sitting there.  
13                  And they would -- and I think PURPA, future PURPA  
14                  projects would be happy to sell them for very cheap  
15                  because they otherwise wouldn't sell them at all, and  
16                  that's I think a much cheaper way than the alternatives,  
17                  building wind or other alternatives.

18                         Interconnections, interconnection process  
19                         and communication approvals, engineering studies, things  
20                         like that, are very lacking with DTE, especially relative  
21                         to Consumers Energy. They take a long time and  
22                         communicate very poorly, and it may not seem like a big  
23                         deal, but it affects -- it affects a lot of things; it  
24                         affects grant money, permitting, bank loans for solar and  
25                         wind projects, and so it affects a lot of things that may

1 not seem important. And it relates here, along with the  
2 REC conversation, that there is solar and wind to be  
3 built out there that DTE seems to, seems to intentionally  
4 delay and get in the way of.

5 And another quick comment on with DG. A  
6 1-percent cap, I don't think it's technically a cap, but  
7 this 1-percent conversation for distributed generation,  
8 there should be no conversation whatsoever of 1 percent,  
9 it shouldn't even be a cap or a minimum or a limit or  
10 anything, it shouldn't even be part of the conversation  
11 because the DG tariff is meant to be fair for all  
12 parties, so there should be no limitations and just let  
13 it grow however it should.

14 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Mr. Zebarah.  
15 Tony -- I'm going to butcher this -- Muhich?

16 MR. MUHICH: Muhich.

17 JUDGE MACK: Muhich. Tony Muhich.

18 MR. MUHICH: Thanks for letting me talk.

19 JUDGE MACK: Mr. Muhich, let it go.

20 MR. MUHICH: That's as loud as I get.

21 I'll hold the mic closer. O.K.

22 I want to have you guys put the  
23 ratepayers in the forefront. This IRP submission by DTE  
24 is good for their stockholder, but it puts me at risk.  
25 The choices that DTE has made with this have been made

1 very differently by other utility companies.

2 For example, Northern Indiana Power  
3 Company -- Power Supply Company in their IRP changed over  
4 to 100-percent solar; they did this because it is cheaper  
5 to run -- change -- build out solar than it is to  
6 continue to run their coal plants. Valerie Sistovar, of  
7 who is the president of that company, said: Our  
8 conclusions to change over to solar were based solely on  
9 the economics and driving for more affordable rates for  
10 the state of Indiana, and ultimately to lower the cost of  
11 energy for our customers. In addition to the cost  
12 savings, there's significant health benefits to closing  
13 the coal plants for people living near the coal plants.  
14 And finally, closing these coal plants in northern  
15 Indiana will reduce the CO2 emissions by about 90 percent  
16 by 2028. DTE's plan will only reduce the CO2 emissions  
17 by 80 percent of 20 (inaudible).

18 THE REPORTER: By 20 -- I'm sorry?

19 JUDGE MACK: O.K. Now, you really have  
20 to speak up.

21 MR. MUHICH: I'm sorry. Another energy  
22 company, Xcel, said they'd close the last coal plant in  
23 Minnesota by 2030. Ben Fowke, who is the chairman of  
24 Xcel, said: This goal will be easy to meet and  
25 affordable, and it's with currently available technology.



1 And their final goal is to meet 100-percent renewable by  
2 2050.

3 Not all IRPs, though, have been pushing  
4 renewable energy. Vectron South Energy submitted their  
5 IRP to the Indiana Public Service Commission. Vectron,  
6 like DTE, was pursuing a generation strategy based on  
7 natural gas, and the Indiana Power Public Service  
8 Commission rejected this proposal, highlighting a  
9 disjoint between the third year or longer lifetime of a  
10 major gas plant investment and the environment of rapidly  
11 changing technologies for both utility and the consumer  
12 side of the meter. Due to this unreasonable financial  
13 risk, the IRP was rejected and Vectron is now considering  
14 additional options.

15 In addition to the financial risk,  
16 there's a legislative risk. 126 cities have committed to  
17 100-percent renewable energy in the U.S., and 7 states,  
18 districts, or territories have committed to 100-percent  
19 renewable energy, and the state of New York is about to  
20 commit to a net zero economy. I don't know if these  
21 cities can do that, but I do know that DTE's IRP proposal  
22 sets them up for a ten-year process that they have to  
23 change; I'm going end up paying for them building out  
24 their renewable energy process and also for the stranded  
25 assets that they're building right now, and I want you

1 guys to come up and say, send them back to the drawing  
2 board. Thank you.

3 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Mr. Muhich. Mark  
4 Farris.

5 MR. FARRIS: Mark Farris, Monroe. I urge  
6 you, the Commission, to reject the Company's plan. It's  
7 inadequate, I think it's illegitimate. I say that  
8 because Detroit Edison owes \$27 million in taxes in  
9 Monroe County that, you know, they're not paying. And,  
10 you know, this is in court, the city, the county of  
11 Monroe, they've chipped in a million bucks a piece, and  
12 this is in court right now. So I think the whole process  
13 is illegitimate here.

14 You know, like a bad neighbor, DTE is  
15 there. They're turning a profit, yet they can't afford  
16 to pay their taxes. If they can't pay their taxes, let  
17 them file bankruptcy, let Consumers pick up their share  
18 of the market. I mean, my gosh, for Consumers to offer  
19 up 5,000 megawatts of solar when Edison is, you know,  
20 offering what, 600-700 maybe is ridiculous.

21 You know, the issue here of the waste --  
22 of the storage, 11 megawatts; I mean that's ridiculous.  
23 For solar to be, you know, a functioning, a fully  
24 functioning system, you need a lot of storage. And, of  
25 course, the sun doesn't have to be shining for solar to

1 generate electricity.

2 For Detroit Edison, you know, they're  
3 storing high-level radioactive waste on the shore of Lake  
4 Erie right now. This was never a part of the application  
5 when they applied for a building permit. Their taxes  
6 should be going up, not down. You know, they're lying  
7 gangsters, they should not have been allowed to change  
8 PURPA before this process. They've stacked the deck  
9 there. So, you know, at some point fresh water is going  
10 to be more valuable than soil. For them to store radio,  
11 high-level radioactive waste on the shore of Lake Erie,  
12 their taxes should go up. Thank you.

13 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Mr. Farris.

14 Diane VanBuren.

15 MS. VanBUREN: Hello. Diane VanBuren,  
16 Detroit resident for, I'll admit it, 65 years, and  
17 co-owner of D2 Solar located here in Detroit, a woman-  
18 owned business, and a board member of Great Lakes  
19 Renewable Energy Association. So thank you, again, we're  
20 all saying it, but thank you for coming to Detroit and  
21 giving us a chance to speak our minds and to tell you our  
22 story here in Detroit.

23 We all in Detroit have had a lot of  
24 challenges, and as you know, we did go through a  
25 bankruptcy a few years ago, and when that happened, we

1 were forced to give up something that we had here in  
2 Detroit, still do on the books, and that was our own  
3 power and light company, and by doing that, we gave up  
4 our voice and our authority on how we can use power and  
5 have our own community solar, so now we're forced into  
6 working with DTE to have community solar, and it's not in  
7 the plan. I did see it in the Consumers' plan, I didn't  
8 see it in the DTE plan.

9 And I hear people talking about slow and  
10 steady. Remember back in 2009, we started paying on our  
11 bills, Detroit, all of the DTE region, we started paying  
12 on our bills to have a renewable energy plan in place  
13 then, a fee that we all paid into, and I don't believe a  
14 single job came to Detroit as a result of that. I think  
15 those jobs went to wind turbines that aren't located  
16 anywhere near Detroit, and we still have the coal plant.  
17 So since 2009, I think that's ten years, we've had a  
18 chance to start to make the change, and we're still  
19 waiting. So what are we waiting for? We're waiting for  
20 business, we're waiting for jobs, we're waiting for clean  
21 air. And frankly, our time is running out pretty quickly  
22 here when we look at our climate. Why has it rained for  
23 50 days? I think it's called climate change. I think we  
24 have to start addressing this now, not slow and steady.

25 So we have a chance now to get it right,

1 and this is a blessing that we have to do it. So the new  
2 IRP plan requires DTE to commit to setting the course  
3 straight, help create a more equitable system for the  
4 citizens of Detroit and this region, and that -- the  
5 region they serve, by the way, and that we send our  
6 dollars to. And where does solar appear in the plan?  
7 After the billion-dollar gas plant is built, after the  
8 negotiated 9-percent increase in our utility bills, after  
9 they build, is it -- I'm losing track now -- 80 megawatts  
10 of solar, a hundred megawatts -- I'm sorry -- of wind  
11 before they get to even a speck of solar, and yes, we do  
12 have the O'Shea solar field here, but it's a speck, it's  
13 a tiny bit, and there was no community benefit back to  
14 Detroit for that.

15 So when I look at community benefits, I  
16 want to think about solar and the opportunity for our  
17 residents to participate in creating their own energy  
18 from the sun that hits us every day, because even if it's  
19 raining, by the way, folks, we are collecting some solar  
20 power. I have a 20-kilowatt system on the roof of a  
21 building that I own in Detroit, and between geothermal  
22 and solar, I've reduced my energy cost by 60 percent. It  
23 makes a difference. It makes a difference to everybody  
24 in Detroit.

25 So Detroit deserves to have its own voice

1 in the future of our children, of our grandchildren.  
2 Please help us gain the power to have community-owned  
3 solar, which is not in this plan, and partnerships with  
4 DTE that are real, and return the economic benefits to  
5 our residents, not the DTE shareholders. Help us build a  
6 robust rooftop and community solar program that can be  
7 showcased to other cities around the world.

8 I love the reference to Indiana. Last  
9 year we looked at where does Detroit rank of cities  
10 nationwide with solar per capita. We were 63rd in the  
11 nation. Indianapolis was fourth. Now, come on, they  
12 have the same climate that we do. Why are they fourth?  
13 They have policy that allows it, but they also have a  
14 utility that encourages it. So please help us create  
15 more power in Detroit. Thank you.

16 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Ms. VanBuren.  
17 Horace Sheffield.

18 MR. SHEFFIELD: My name is Horace  
19 Sheffield. And with all due respect to my friend from  
20 Monroe, I went to Hall of the Divine Child Military  
21 Academy, and I appreciate his love and respect for solar  
22 power, but I'm certainly not in favor of suggesting that  
23 Edison should be bankrupt and be sold. Edison is a  
24 Detroit-based company, and that's why I'm here to support  
25 what they do, because I have a, you know, history with

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1       them, and I think we all have our parochial perspectives  
2       so we all approach this from different ways and different  
3       vantage points and somewhere along the lines we can kind  
4       of mesh the differences of opinions, but not throw the  
5       baby out with the bathwater.

6               DTE continues to be a reliable energy  
7       provider and a positive influence in our community. We  
8       have had many, many community assistance days at my  
9       facility where several hundred people have been given  
10      help with their bills, I've been able to interface with  
11      them whenever I had issues.

12             As climate changes fuels the needs for  
13      cleaner energy resources, the need for affordable energy  
14      bills remains an important factor for DTE as ever. The  
15      plan provides a communal solution to the problem of  
16      making strategic investments in renewable energy. DTE's  
17      plans gets us where we need to be in mitigating climate  
18      change without burdening our community with unreasonable  
19      electric bills.

20             Our community wants a cleaner  
21      environment, and we're proud to see DTE retire coal  
22      plants in a responsible and thoughtful way and a  
23      thoughtful manner to transition to cleaner energy and  
24      resources. I believe it's imperative we protect our  
25      environment, but we must also protect our communities.

1 DTE has a plan to make these changes without a heavy  
2 impact on our wallets. Because of their commitment to  
3 lead on affordability and clean energy, our community can  
4 continue to focus on effecting positive transformation.  
5 I support their application before the Michigan Public  
6 Service Commission.

7 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Mr. Sheffield.  
8 Kathryn Savoie.

9 MS. SAVOIE: Good evening. My name is  
10 Kathryn Savoie, I am a Detroit resident, and I'm a DTE  
11 customer, and I'm going to speak from my heart from that  
12 perspective. I really appreciate that you came to  
13 Detroit. I think that doesn't happen enough, that we've  
14 had this opportunity, so thank you for this opportunity  
15 to comment.

16 I am an ecologist and a mother, and I am  
17 really concerned about climate change. I have been  
18 following this issue for 20 years, and it just gets more  
19 and more concerning, it gets more and more in our faces  
20 that this is not just something that's a future problem,  
21 it's something that's happening right now. And I want to  
22 see something happen, I want to see those of us who have  
23 power to use our power to make a change, and that's why  
24 I'm here tonight.

25 It really -- I find it so hard that three  
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1 people, that the three people who are the Commissioners  
2 have the power to say what happens here in Michigan and  
3 how we will address this really serious issue of our  
4 future. You have the power to make a difference.  
5 Please, please help us. We can't stop DTE without you.  
6 We can't stop their plans to do business as usual, which  
7 is DTE does to everyone. The scientists are telling us  
8 that we have 10, 12 years left before society as we know,  
9 before civilization as we know it is disrupted by the  
10 changes that are happening because of our investment in  
11 fossil fuels. I just want you to feel that, that you  
12 have this responsibility. You can help us. You can hold  
13 DTE accountable, you can make them go back, they can do  
14 so much better.

15           Everybody has spoken very eloquently of  
16 the problems that we experience with DTE in our city.  
17 You know, the service is bad, the infrastructure is poor;  
18 when it rains, and it's going to rain more, the wires are  
19 down, people are killed at twice the rate in Detroit as  
20 any other community. You know, this -- these things are  
21 real, and it's going to get worse with climate change.  
22 So we need to change, we need to hold DTE accountable to  
23 the very highest possible standard; we need to send them  
24 back to the drawing board and say, do the best you can  
25 do. And I look to you, and I remind you that you have

1 the power. Please help us. Thank you.

2 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Ms. Savoie.

3 Bilal Hammoud. Mr. Hammoud.

4 UNIDENTIFIED: He had to leave.

5 JUDGE MACK: O.K. Kiara Stewart.

6 MS. STEWART: Kiava.

7 JUDGE MACK: Sorry.

8 MS. STEWART: Hello. My name is Kiava  
9 Stewart, and I want to say thank you for giving us this  
10 opportunity to come in front of you and address the IRP  
11 and what our concerns are.

12 I'm from Detroit, I've lived here all my  
13 life. I would like to say that I represent anywhere  
14 between 70 to 80 percent of Detroit in the black  
15 community, in the hood. When the lights were cut off  
16 more than three or four times last year for more than  
17 three days at one point, I did a blackout challenge where  
18 we provided food for people in the community that  
19 couldn't get food from their refrigerators because their  
20 power wasn't working, they couldn't turn on their stoves.  
21 Me by myself and other women in my community came  
22 together before our lights were cut off. The lights were  
23 off for a total of seven days. O.K. I went to the gas  
24 stations and the gas stations gave us noodles because the  
25 grocery stores' freezers were off. I met a woman with 11

1 children, their mother had passed, she had no food  
2 because her refrigerator did not work. The  
3 inefficiencies in DTE are consistent, and they have been  
4 since I was a child, and in my community.

5 And this IRP, though I haven't read the  
6 full thing, I've listened to both sides, nothing says  
7 that it's going to be affordable for us. Nothing is  
8 talking about the fact that when the downed power lines,  
9 when it happens, when these people die, there's no  
10 funding, there's no help, there's no resources, and this  
11 is hurting us, it's not helping us.

12 There are programs in DTE some people  
13 talked about, the low-income self-sufficiency program,  
14 the Shutoff Protection Plan, those of which that I  
15 personally have applied for more than a dozen times and  
16 I've been denied because the front of my I.D. didn't  
17 match my lease. While I was in the office and the  
18 infrastructure there, let's be clear, because I just want  
19 to say that we place ourselves in the infrastructure and  
20 we should depend on them. No. These infrastructures  
21 place themselves in our community and they should depend  
22 on us, and they do. Their revenues are tripling and none  
23 of these problems are being addressed in this IRP. I  
24 watched homes benefit from solar panels, from energy  
25 efficiency that I can't afford. I don't know how to put

1 a solar panel on my roof, but I know that there are  
2 organizations that willing to teach me, and they're  
3 underfunded. They don't have the support.

4 I know that my voice and maybe others  
5 like me that are low income, that don't have a lot of  
6 money, that don't have a fancy suit or fancy words may  
7 not be as valuable because I didn't write it down for you  
8 guys to keep, but I hope that when you see me, you  
9 recognize millions of women and children that can not  
10 afford these plans that don't include us. Thank you.

11 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Ms. Stewart.  
12 Jason Hayes. Jason Hayes.

13 MR. HAYES: Good afternoon. Thank you  
14 for holding this public meeting. I had information that  
15 I was going to present, I thought it was interesting to  
16 talk about the difference between dispatchability and  
17 non-dispatchability, but I'm listening to people like the  
18 lady who just spoke and I'm thinking, good Lord, this is  
19 America in 2019 and we're allowing people to go for seven  
20 days without electricity. That's truly amazing.

21 When I stop and think about what is in  
22 DTE's plan, I'm thinking, O.K., we're going to close down  
23 over 6,000 megawatts of dispatchable electricity, and in  
24 its place we're going to put up 1,150 megawatts of  
25 natural gas, and then we're going to put in somewhere

1 around 2,500 megawatts of solar, which is not  
2 dispatchable, unreliable. Now, I've heard people say  
3 that there's ways to make it work during this, there's  
4 ways to add batteries to the system, there's ways to do  
5 other things, but each one of those adds a cost, an  
6 imposed cost not only in terms of transmission, but also  
7 in terms of other backup power.

8 And something that a lot of people don't  
9 recognize when it comes to the issue of building  
10 renewable energy is that, I believe it was Reverend  
11 Tupper already said that the wind doesn't blow 24/7, the  
12 sun doesn't shine 24/7, so when you build renewable  
13 energy, whether people realize it or not, you have to  
14 build natural gas as a backup, you can't do it unless you  
15 have that.

16 So when I stop and I think that people  
17 are saying we should shut down the natural gas at the  
18 same time as we're shutting down coal, and you folks will  
19 know that nuclear energy in Consumers' IRP is also going  
20 to be closed, we're in the midst of shutting down all of  
21 our reliable, already paid for, currently operating base  
22 load electricity. And then I hear somebody like this  
23 lady who just said she went for seven days without  
24 electricity. That's unthinkable. That should be  
25 criminal. I'm just, truly, I'm amazed at that. And I

1 mean I come from obviously a very different situation,  
2 and I'm kind of embarrassed when I hear that sort of  
3 thing. That, wow, really wow.

4 And at the same time as we're talking  
5 about closing down our reliable base load operations and  
6 replacing it with unreliable renewables, we have no  
7 backup. This is -- and I'll stop, because I plan to  
8 submit written comments on this, but really, I'll stop  
9 and let other people speak, but that's just wrong.

10 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Mr. Hayes.

11 Charles Kesner.

12 MR. KESNER: Hi, my name is Charles  
13 Kesner, I'm from Royal Oak, and a DTE customer. And most  
14 people have expressed on the -- I'm on the side that we  
15 shouldn't accept the current plan as submitted by DTE.

16 There's only a couple things I'd like to  
17 add, and that is that according to Cranes Detroit, I  
18 don't know if you're familiar with the article of  
19 March 17, 2017, Detroit was -- DTE was ranked fourth  
20 nationally for power outages. O.K. And I can speak to  
21 that personally from my own experience. Seems like we  
22 can't get through a couple times a year without losing  
23 our power, sometimes we've had to go to motels, and  
24 that's not uncommon for my friends in Clawson or  
25 Farmington Hills, also. I have expressed my concerns to

1 DTE, and nobody responds.

2 But I think what we're asking -- and I'm  
3 also concerned that they're a monopoly, you know, we've  
4 virtually sanctioned them to be a monopoly on the energy  
5 business in that we don't have third-party involvement  
6 here. And I think what we're asking is for DTE to be a  
7 good corporate citizen and, you know, and to allow some  
8 of this to happen. And we don't have to look too far,  
9 you know, with our cash-strapped cities and state  
10 government -- and of course gas-powered power generation  
11 is not clean and causes health problems, and that puts a  
12 burden on our society. But I'd like to say that, you  
13 know, municipalities are strapped for cash and school  
14 districts, and we don't have to look too far. You know  
15 that in Maize, Kansas, for an example, schools is saving  
16 \$30,000 a year annually using solar energy; Stockton,  
17 California, schools plan on saving 30 million on its  
18 energy bills in the next 25 years by using clean energy;  
19 the city of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, saved more than  
20 3.1 million in energy projects using building upgrades  
21 and solar; and Glenwood Springs, Colorado, is the seventh  
22 U.S. city to use 100-percent renewable and solar. So I'd  
23 just like to say there are alternatives out there, there  
24 are other communities doing it, and there's a great way  
25 for us to allow our communities to use their resources on

1 infrastructure and things like that, and this clean  
2 energy is a way to do it. Thank you very much.

3 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Mr. Kesner.

4 We are going to take a break now, it's  
5 5:30. We will resume at 5:45.

6 (At 5:30 p.m., there was a 15-minute recess.)

7 JUDGE MACK: O.K. We are going to resume  
8 the public comment portion of the meeting. Due to the  
9 number of people who would like to speak, we are going to  
10 reduce the time to three minutes, but we will stay for as  
11 long as we can to make sure everybody has the opportunity  
12 to speak. So I would appreciate if you recognize the  
13 time constraints that we're operating under.

14 And with that, a name I'm having a hard  
15 time, somebody with the National Wildlife Federation,  
16 Antonio.

17 And one second. Again, if anybody wants  
18 to submit written comments, they can do it here or they  
19 can do it on the E-docket. We've had some people who  
20 have had to leave and have submitted their comments. So  
21 if you have comments and you have to leave or you just  
22 want to submit the comments, we can handle that, too.

23 Go ahead, please.

24 MR. COSME: I think it's painfully  
25 obviously that DTE funds a lot of pastors and nonprofits



1 in the city.

2 JUDGE MACK: And I'm sorry, could you say  
3 your last name, I had a --

4 MR. COSME: Yeah. Antonio Cosme.

5 JUDGE MACK: Cosme. O.K. Thank you,  
6 Mr. Cosme.

7 MR. COSME: So it's pretty obvious that  
8 DTE funds a lot of stuff in the city, so I think you're  
9 going to get a lot of folks speaking for our monopoly  
10 energy provider. But generally speaking, most citizens  
11 of the city and of Wayne County aren't going to speak up  
12 for DTE.

13 I didn't see a scenario in any of the  
14 five scenarios of a massive social uprising of citizens  
15 who are sick of the same old oil economy, and I got to  
16 believe that that's coming soon. As we see in Europe,  
17 there's huge populations of climate refugees on the  
18 border of their continent, and that presence has raised  
19 all sorts of xenophobic, reactionary, right-wing fears  
20 that raise of specter of World War II. I mean it's kind  
21 of like political gridlock that we see happening in  
22 Europe, potentially the breakup of the EU, a lot of that  
23 comes from climate refugees and folks who came out of  
24 Libya and Syria, and obviously a lot of the tensions in  
25 those regions are caused by water shortages and climate

1 issues.

2 Where does all this like greedy,  
3 squeezing the last tiny bit out of the oil economy take  
4 us? At some point this natural gas and this oil has to  
5 become suspended assets, and right now DTE is just trying  
6 to line their pockets as much as possible until that day  
7 comes. We've seen what it looks like when companies  
8 abandon their infrastructure and there's massive capital  
9 [inaudible]. That's been the story of Detroit for the  
10 last 60 years. And none of those scenarios are taking  
11 into account this rapid change that society needs to  
12 make. The energy policy of the United States has been  
13 responsible for far too much of the world's carbon  
14 emissions. The United States has become a global pariah  
15 politically and morally. With our bankrupt president, we  
16 seem like a bankrupt nation.

17 We're the leading oil producer in the  
18 world, we've radically changed the fracking economy, and  
19 that technology, unproven, untested in a lot of places,  
20 threatens fresh water all over the world. What happens  
21 when millions and billions of people all over the place  
22 can not drink the water from the places that they live  
23 in? Where are they going to go? What kind of  
24 destabilization is that going to cause? The one benefit  
25 of Trump's presidency is he leaves the emperor without

1 clothes, naked, flaccid, and frail, the perfect  
2 spokesperson for a greedy, lying, cheating, old oil  
3 economy.

4 The modeling scenario has not taken into  
5 account the rising of us when comes to changing this  
6 economy. A 20-percent reduction over 10 years is not  
7 ambitious enough, 11 megawatts is terribly insufficient.  
8 And why would they have to innovate? Why would a  
9 monopoly be driven to innovate? I studied economics in  
10 college, and that's just Economics 101. There's a lot of  
11 inefficiencies when one monopoly producer can set the  
12 price and it doesn't need to compete with other  
13 competitors. I don't know why we've accepted this fate.

14 You know, I'm a forager, I'm a gardener,  
15 I hunt, I fish, I love going outdoors. My job with the  
16 National Wildlife Federation is to take kids outdoors and  
17 introduce them to the wildlife, and with things like PFOS  
18 contamination, like what -- how long do we have, you  
19 know, to protect our waters? I mean when the price of  
20 gas goes up and the price of natural gas gets to a  
21 certain rate, they're going to frack up Michigan like  
22 crazy, and that's what we're waiting for.

23 The last point I want to make is there's  
24 a lot of folks in my generation, and you're not going to  
25 hear too many young people speaking up for DTE, you're

1 going to see a lot of old pastors and nonprofit  
2 executives who have been like on the DTE tete for years,  
3 but these dinosaurs are dying, and those of us who want  
4 to have kids, who want to have families, who want to  
5 thrive in this world are looking at the state of our  
6 political discourse and the state of capitalism in this  
7 phase, and a lot of us are not wanting to have kids.

8 All that is to say is the oil era is  
9 coming to an end, and at some point people are going to  
10 suspend those assets and leave the oil in the ground, and  
11 we need to take a leadership position as a country, and  
12 you guys need to force DTE to innovate.

13 JUDGE MACK: Thank you. Jim Sherman.

14 Jim Sherman.

15 MR. SHERMAN: I want to thank the  
16 Commission for the opportunity to speak. Good afternoon.  
17 My name is Jim Sherman.

18 UNIDENTIFIED: (Inaudible comments.)

19 Tilt the microphone.

20 JUDGE MACK: How's that?

21 UNIDENTIFIED: (Inaudible comments.)

22 MR. SHERMAN: Good afternoon. My name is  
23 Jim Sherman, I'm the co-chair of the Citizens Resistance  
24 at Fermi Two. I want to thank the Commission for holding  
25 this forum, especially here in Detroit. And an aside, I

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1 want to thank you for your recent work in improving the  
2 accountability for DTE's electrocution deaths here in the  
3 city.

4 I'm here to express my sincere and well-  
5 founded conclusion that DTE's IRP is not safe, not  
6 reasonable, and not prudent. It is actually a roadmap to  
7 a draconian energy future that abdicates their  
8 responsibility to the public in favor of a myopic, self-  
9 serving agenda. It ignores the grim realities of climate  
10 change and obfuscates the real impact of their plans. A  
11 massive investment in gas generation is a direct conflict  
12 of interest considering the Company's large investments  
13 in fracking and pipelines, and as 40-percent owner of the  
14 Nexus Pipeline, this constitutes an attack on the public  
15 interest.

16 Electricity from clean renewable sources  
17 is equivalent supply of the end user, but creates three  
18 times more jobs, can be deployed to scale, and to the  
19 point of demand more quickly and for less money. It  
20 operates pollution-free and adds reliability and  
21 resiliency to the grid, and Michigan is one of the  
22 leaders in the world of on-grid storage with the  
23 Ludington Power Pumping Station, the world's fourth  
24 largest water battery. The Company is using their  
25 considerable clout to strangle meaningful adoption of

1 distributed clean energy and storage in favor of hanging  
2 an albatross around the necks of rate-paying  
3 Michiganders.

4 But it gets worse. The IRP makes no  
5 significant mention of the biggest monstrosity in their  
6 dirty, polluting fleet, Fermi 2. In the wake of the  
7 continually unfolding disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi  
8 Power Plant in Japan, we must realize what a clear and  
9 present danger Fermi 2 constitutes to the Great Lakes.  
10 Both reactors are of the fatally flawed Mark 1 design,  
11 but Fermi 2 is the largest Mark 1 in the world with over  
12 a gigawatt of output. With no real solution to the waste  
13 problem in sight, high-level waste is piling up on the  
14 Lake Erie shore. Fermi 2 is an aging reactor with  
15 multiple recent emergency shutdowns and major cooling  
16 problems. Instead of fulfilling their duty to protect  
17 the public, they're moving to reduce the tax liabilities  
18 and then cut important inspections, and one of the only  
19 things they're declaring is that they want to continue  
20 operating this dangerous plant to the end of its  
21 potential lifespan, 80 years, which is an absolute  
22 unconscionable act to even consider when it's already  
23 having major problems.

24 Fermi 2 is a financial boondoggle, only  
25 operable due to the massive subsidization and the

1 liability protections of the Price-Anderson Act. The  
2 Company wantonly prioritizes profit over protecting  
3 people.

4 It is the job of Michigan Public Service  
5 Commission to protect the people of Michigan from  
6 monopolistic and dirty energy practices. Please do your  
7 job; it's very important for most of the respondents here  
8 and for our future and for our children going forward,  
9 you must reject this absolutely disastrous plan because  
10 it is not safe, it is not reasonable, and it is not  
11 prudent. And I want to thank you very much for this  
12 opportunity to share my views with you.

13 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Mr. Sherman.  
14 Michelle Martinez.

15 MS. MARTINEZ: Good evening, and thank  
16 you for this opportunity to speak tonight. I think a lot  
17 of good points were made tonight, and what I want to add  
18 in addition to some of the things that my fellow Detroit  
19 residents have spoken towards is safety. It's one of the  
20 points that Michigan Public Service Commission is charged  
21 with.

22 And in being a Detroiter, I share the  
23 experience of participating in the energy system of DTE  
24 and witnessing some of the hardships that people  
25 experience, and I look around when there's a big storm

1 and downed power lines are happening, and I understand  
2 that disinvestment in Detroit's infrastructure is  
3 happening simultaneously to the expansion of  
4 infrastructure in wealthier suburbs on the backs of poor  
5 people. When I know that over 200,000 shutoffs are  
6 happening in DTE territory every year, even to the number  
7 of 20,000 in January when we know that the Polar Vortex  
8 is striking, or in the summer months when we know that it  
9 can reach up to 90 or a hundred degrees in people's homes  
10 because they can't afford air conditioning in their  
11 hundred year old homes, I ask myself, is that safe? Does  
12 the Michigan Public Service Commission consider  
13 affordability a safety issue? One of the youth that we  
14 work with talked about feeling unsafe when a neighbor was  
15 trying to steal energy from their home because they had  
16 children, creating a conflict between the two homeowners,  
17 and I mentioned that it's, energy theft is a felony. But  
18 where's the right and wrong in that, and who is safe in  
19 this situation?

20 I'm an environmental justice advocate and  
21 I travel all over the United States, and I hear testimony  
22 from people whose backyards are being fracked, whose  
23 wells are never drinkable, who try to stop pipelines from  
24 tearing through their lawns, from crossing the Great  
25 Lakes and landing in Omgenon [sp], whose birth outcomes



1 are being changed from the processing of natural gas in  
2 their communities, and I ask, is this system safe? I  
3 think about the rising tides of the Great Lakes and Lake  
4 Huron reaching historic highs, and think about the coal  
5 ash ponds and the nuclear waste that's being stored on  
6 our Great Lakes, and I fear for my children, and I think  
7 is this safe?

8 Now, I know that as we continue to look  
9 at DTE Energy's plan and they want to double down on  
10 fracking and they want to double down on natural gas  
11 facilities and they want to continue to run Fermi 2 and  
12 maybe build Fermi 3 while simultaneously in other  
13 structures continuing to raise rates higher and higher  
14 and higher while trying to maintain industrial rates very  
15 low, while paying off politicians and not paying federal,  
16 local, or county taxes my children don't have water in  
17 their school; is that safe? It's 125 degrees in India;  
18 is that safe? We're seeing ecological collapse; is that  
19 safe?

20 You heard from business people here who  
21 are ready to build the next economy; you heard from  
22 homeowners who are ready to put solar panels on their  
23 homes but can't participate in the Voluntary Green  
24 Program that just adds another \$10, \$20, or \$30 to your  
25 bill if you can afford it, and I wonder how can we

1 intervene in this discussion? And I look to you, and I  
2 wonder, are you brave enough to go into this next phase  
3 of existence with us to create a safe place to live in  
4 Michigan with 20 percent of the world's fresh water, are  
5 you brave enough to take that risk with us that we have  
6 every day living in Detroit on the Great Lakes?

7 We take on the political risk when DTE  
8 puts up a faulty plan like this, and we're asking for you  
9 to share in the risk in taking on a safer, cleaner,  
10 affordable, 100-percent clean renewable energy so that we  
11 can survive this next phase of our existence. Thank you.

12 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Ms. Martinez.  
13 Gloria Lowe.

14 MS. LOWE: Thank you. Thank you for  
15 coming to Detroit.

16 I'm almost speechless. As an elder in  
17 the community representing the east side of Detroit,  
18 we're just disappointed. We're totally disappointed.  
19 Not just with DTE. We've been here long enough, we have  
20 experienced these rate hikes for 20 and 30 years. We've  
21 not experienced good service, but we've paid for it. So  
22 we're kind of disgusted, because we, too, look to you.  
23 You were the guys that were supposed to make sure that  
24 they did what they were supposed to do for the price they  
25 were asking for. It's not happened. You know, we can

1 pass blame all day long, but as the young lady said, we  
2 don't have much time. It's obvious to the people here  
3 that this is a political game that's being played on the  
4 lives of a lot of people, particularly my community in  
5 Detroit.

6 We know DTE is switching to natural gas  
7 because they're just so greedy that they can refuse to  
8 pay the high cost for coal. We know that they have  
9 partnered with Enbridge and other such folks, Marathon,  
10 and all these folks who want to do fracking and destroy  
11 the Great Lakes. I love to fish; I don't know about you.  
12 I have community up north that won't be able to fish,  
13 that's their livelihood, on the back of somebody else's  
14 greed.

15 This is a moral issue for me at my age.  
16 I'm concerned about the young people and their children.  
17 Maybe I'm concerned about yours. The question is, are  
18 you concerned about their future?

19 This IRP is ridiculous. And we can talk  
20 all day long, we can talk to the points. The only point  
21 I have is if Consumers Energy can come up with something  
22 better, why not DTE? That's very obvious. So I'm saying  
23 absolutely we do not support this IRP. They need to be  
24 brought to the table, they need to stand up and take  
25 responsibility for who they are, and I'm going to ask

1 that you take responsibility for what you're here to do.

2 I don't feel safe. I don't feel secure.

3 I know my community is not safe, we're not secure. Our  
4 infrastructure is horrible. You can almost count on a  
5 high wind come through, get ready because the lines are  
6 coming down, and people are dying. Who does that? Who  
7 accepts that? You have these reports; why would you even  
8 accept that in your state? We're so much better than  
9 that. This is not a political game, our lives are at  
10 stake here, all of them. When climate change hits this  
11 peak, it's not going to say, oh, are you black, are you  
12 Hispanic, are you Muslim, or are you rich, white and  
13 male? It's not going to care. The question is, will  
14 you?

15 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Ms. Lowe. Lauren  
16 Sargent.

17 MS. SARGENT: My name is Lauren Sargent,  
18 I'm from Ann Arbor, and I'd like to thank you,  
19 Commissioners, for being here today; but more than that,  
20 I'd like to thank my fellow citizens who came out today  
21 to speak to you and to implore you to do your jobs. You  
22 do have the power to make a change to send this IRP back  
23 to the drawing board, and I implore you to do that.

24 I also learned that DTE provides reliable  
25 energy. That's a surprise to me. In my neighborhood in  
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1 Ann Arbor, ten of my neighbors have generators, that's  
2 how often our power goes out. Also, one of my former  
3 neighbors has a daughter who has a genetic disorder and  
4 has no motor tone from her chest down and she needs  
5 special equipment to breathe at night, so every time that  
6 power went out, it was a life and death emergency for  
7 that family, and DTE contractors told her that they  
8 should just go to the hospital with their daughter. So  
9 I'm glad to hear that DTE has reliable energy, this is  
10 news to me, it's not my lived experience.

11 So what I urge you to do quite simply is  
12 to send DTE back to the drawing board to develop an  
13 Integrated Resource Plan that reflects reality and not  
14 the financial aspirations of shareholders.

15 Climate change is not imminent, it is  
16 here. More frequent and intense storms, more  
17 precipitation, just look out the window. Today and  
18 nearly every day for the past several months we have been  
19 experiencing the effects of climate change. It is now.  
20 It's not tomorrow, it's not next year. We are rapidly  
21 transitioning to climate crisis, yet the energy plans of  
22 our monopoly utility do not reflect this urgency to act.  
23 This is not 1957, the year of my birth, this is 2019;  
24 they can do so much better.

25 Coal, fracked gas, that's an absurdity.

1 We have all the data we could ever need to make it  
2 abundantly clear that we should transition very rapidly  
3 off fossil fuels in favor of renewable energy,  
4 conservation, efficiency, and advanced battery storage.  
5 DTE's plan to invest in fracked gas plants and to  
6 continue to burn coal are a slap in the face to our young  
7 people, people like my 18 year old son who told me today,  
8 I'm scared to have children. The planet is dying, and  
9 our birth rate reflects that, it's dropping off a cliff.  
10 How could I plan to have children to bring them into a  
11 dying world? That would be so sad. There's a reason  
12 that there's so much depression and anxiety among people  
13 my age. This is my lived experience.

14 DTE is supposed to serve the public, not  
15 just shareholder profit. It's unconscionable for DTE to  
16 privilege short-term gain over a liveable future within  
17 the not so distant future. I urge the Commissioners to  
18 send DTE back to develop a plan consistent with the  
19 public interests. Renewable energy and conservation now.

20 Stop punishing consumers who are trying  
21 to do our part. Why is there a cap on net metering? Why  
22 do ratepayers who want to convert their power to  
23 renewable sources have to pay extra for that privilege?  
24 The price of renewables is dropping rapidly, and interest  
25 in conversion to renewables is growing. Peer utilities

1       like Consumers are getting the message, the municipal  
2       utilities and co-ops are getting on board. DTE needs to  
3       get with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Save the ratepayers money,  
4       stop all the investment in new infrastructure for fossil  
5       fuels, do their part to halt the spiraling climate  
6       crisis. Yes, this should have been done decades ago, but  
7       there's no time like the present to start.

8                   JUDGE MACK: Thank you Ms. Sargent. Nick  
9       Dreher.

10                   MR. DREHER: Thank you. Good evening.  
11       My name is Nick Dreher, I'm with the Midwest Energy  
12       Efficiency Alliance, a non-profit membership-based energy  
13       efficiency advocacy organization serving as a program and  
14       policy resource across our 13-state region, which  
15       includes Michigan. We have about 75 members based in or  
16       working within Michigan, and MEEA does not intervene or  
17       lobby. And I want to thank the opportunity to speak  
18       today.

19                   I have set three main points. First, if  
20       stacked up against all other supply-side energy  
21       resources, energy waste reduction or energy efficiency is  
22       the cheapest resource. The following is from the 2018  
23       Lazard and Lawrence Berkeley National Lab sources. On  
24       average, energy efficiency is around 20 cents per  
25       kilowatt hour in the midwest, and I believe it's slightly

1 lower in Michigan actually. Compared to all other  
2 resources, it is the cheapest. And that's not meant as a  
3 knock in any way on renewable energy, it's just meant to  
4 underscore the lower cost of energy efficiency, which  
5 should be thought of as the first fuel, the first step in  
6 assessing broader energy supply to meet demand. Right  
7 size, reduce, and manage first to increase reliability,  
8 resiliency, and affordability.

9 Second, if for some reason the modeling  
10 is not selecting the cheapest resource, which is energy  
11 waste reduction, we need to think about reexamining the  
12 way we value energy efficiency in the context of  
13 long-term energy planning. Beyond energy savings  
14 benefits, EWR brings comfort, health benefits, safety,  
15 resiliency, and numerous other nonenergy benefits to the  
16 customers, the utility, and to the energy infrastructure  
17 at large.

18 Third, MEEA is part of the Michigan  
19 Energy Efficiency for All Partnership of national,  
20 regional, statewide, and community-based organizations  
21 here in Michigan united in striving to ensure that all  
22 Michigan renters live in homes that are affordable and  
23 healthy. MEEA asks for guidance from this body as to how  
24 we might specifically address the persisting energy  
25 affordability crises in Michigan through increased energy



1 waste reduction resources. Now, over the past couple of  
2 years, DTE has significantly increased its spending for  
3 those EWR programming opportunities, however, we think  
4 these programs specifically in the energy efficiency  
5 resources benefiting these communities should be a  
6 long-range energy planning priority, ensuring reliable,  
7 safe, and affordable energy services.

8 In the 2017-2018 statewide energy waste  
9 reduction potential study, a commercial and industrial  
10 market assessment was conducted to evaluate the potential  
11 for EWR. Why not investigate the affordable single- and  
12 multi-family sectors specifically to understand that  
13 potential. Like C&I, these are uniquely difficult to  
14 reach customer segments requiring creative program design  
15 and long-term attention. Unlike C&I, the energy burden  
16 in under-resourced communities, underserved communities  
17 can mean life or death. In the absence of such a study,  
18 I'd like guidance as to the complementary interaction  
19 between EWR cases, integrated resource planning, and rate  
20 cases. These proceedings should work in concert to  
21 achieve energy affordability for all Michiganders. Thank  
22 you again for the opportunity.

23 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Mr. Dreher. Rita  
24 Mitchell.

25 MS. MITCHELL: Hi. I'm Rita Mitchell,  
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1 and I'm from Ann Arbor. And you'll hear some echos of  
2 things you've heard from other people today.

3 And I want to thank you for starting out  
4 your presentation with your discussion of the mission of  
5 the PSC, because I think its really important, and I hope  
6 you'll continue on it. You're regulating a monopoly of  
7 for-profit energies and entities. Their rates affect the  
8 affect the residents to pay their bills. Your job is to  
9 assure fairness for all of us who almost have no choice  
10 but to accept the service and pay the rates of DTE.

11 I just received my energy bill from DTE,  
12 and it had data that compared our household to others. I  
13 want DTE to use that information. It should be required  
14 to focus energy efficiency on households that really need  
15 the help. They know which is an energy efficient  
16 household versus one that's not. The proposed percentage  
17 that DTE would dedicate to efficiency is between 1 and  
18 2 percent; incredibly small. DTE's future projected  
19 energy production needs would be altered, as you said, if  
20 they were supported by more weatherization of buildings.  
21 Why is such a limited amount presented as part of their  
22 package?

23 Regarding safety: What about the safety  
24 of air? Until we have a fully renewable energy resource  
25 system, DTE should be financially responsible for the

1 full range of healthcare for all asthma cases within  
2 50 miles of any fossil fuel plant. It should provide  
3 safety measures for communities surrounding the Fermi 2  
4 plant, including potassium iodide and emergency routing  
5 for in the event of a nuclear event. Of greatest  
6 importance is the need to close plants that use fossil  
7 fuels and dangerous nuclear energy, that should be part  
8 of the future plan and should be soon.

9 For reliability and accessibility, DTE  
10 should be welcoming alternative energy solutions that  
11 stabilize the electricity available. We need to move our  
12 collective energy production into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and  
13 to leave the dinosaurs to the past.

14 You Commissioners are responsible for  
15 ensuring equity so that those who are financially  
16 challenged also participate in the clean energy future  
17 that will benefit all. We're counting on you to be the  
18 ones that ensure that there are no sacrifice zones, that  
19 neighborhoods and the environment are not harmed by  
20 energy production as is currently the case.

21 Like an earlier speaker way in the  
22 beginning of today, I'm concerned about this as a moral  
23 issue. I'm actually very aware that every time I flip on  
24 a switch, the electricity that I use means that some of  
25 my fellow Michiganders in southeast Michigan will breathe

1 polluted air, and that the pipelines used to transport  
2 natural gas may emit greenhouse gases anywhere along the  
3 line from extraction to use. I want your actions and  
4 decisions to move us to a renewable energy future that  
5 removes caps and limits on wind and solar energy. Please  
6 work to get a creative plan implemented so that we can  
7 move to a clean energy future. Thank you.

8 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Ms. Mitchell.  
9 Jim Murray. Jim Murray.

10 MR. MURRAY: I can only go so fast. Hi,  
11 guys. Hello. My name is Jim Murray, and I will actually  
12 stick to the three minutes. I'm the executive director  
13 of the Arab Chaldean Council, and prior to that I was  
14 president of AT&T Michigan. The ACC is a nonprofit  
15 charitable organization that provides services to many  
16 diverse communities across the tri-state region.

17 I for one am very, very happy that DTE  
18 has a social mission that includes helping out  
19 organizations like ours. Nonprofits help people. The  
20 climate refugees that were mentioned earlier, the  
21 economic refugees, the political refugees, our  
22 organization helps them. We have over 40 satellite  
23 offices across the tri-county region.

24 My last point I want to make -- I'll  
25 submit full testimony based on the pages that I had

1 before, but since we're running out of time -- is that  
2 you may be able to compare Consumers' and DTE's plans,  
3 but they don't start from the same point. One of them is  
4 a net buyer, one of them is net supplier; they're not  
5 necessarily apples and oranges, they don't compare  
6 directly to each other for an IRP. Thank you. And like  
7 I said, I'll submit formal written testimony.

8 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Mr. Murray.  
9 Meredith Gilies. Meredith Gilies.

10 America, can you help me?

11 MS. YAHYA: Yahya.

12 JUDGE MACK: Yahya. Can you spell that  
13 for Ms. Penn?

14 MS. YAHYA: Yes, sir. Y-a-h-y-a. First  
15 name like the country.

16 THE REPORTER: O.K. You have to speak  
17 up.

18 MS. YAHYA: First name like the country,  
19 America. So just please give me one moment. Hello.  
20 Thank you for being here. We do really appreciate you  
21 listening to our voice being here in Detroit, we  
22 appreciate that so very much.

23 Again, my name is America Yahya. I was  
24 born and raised in southwest Detroit. I love my city  
25 very much. I am a fellow with Work For Me DTE, and  
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1       Soulardarity, and I'm an extremely concerned resident of  
2       Detroit and of our planet. I'm just going to be quick, I  
3       have a few bullet points.

4               Firstly, we need a sustainable system and  
5       we have the means to do so. We must focus on that. What  
6       DTE proposes does not have anyone in this equation but  
7       them. Our health, our environment, and our lives are on  
8       the line literally. This is no joke time. And simply  
9       with all the data that was said today from every single  
10      one of us, we have the means and the research to fix our  
11      situation, so there is no reason not to. It is indeed  
12      possible.

13              And there are plenty -- there are plenty  
14      examples around the world and increasing amounts of  
15      examples on our globe that have [inaudible] pollutants  
16      and solutions to these situations. There have been  
17      countries and groups of people and communities that have  
18      become successfully sustainable, and they're helping with  
19      this strike on climate change, but we're not. Yes,  
20      indeed we do have the funds, we do have the power, you do  
21      have the power, and we do have the people; we're here  
22      supporting you, we can make it happen, and it needs to  
23      happen now. We don't have the time. We do not have the  
24      time.

25              I would like to quote the Swedish teen,  
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1 Greta Thunberg, all the way in Sweden who had to skip  
2 school in order to lead climate strikes in her country.  
3 She says: You say you love your children above all else,  
4 and yet you are stealing their future in front of their  
5 very eyes. We can not solve a crisis without treating it  
6 as a crisis. If solutions within the system are so  
7 impossible to find, then we should change the system  
8 itself.

9 And a question for everyone here in the  
10 audience: How much time will be too much time before we  
11 don't have any time? Now that you've heard, please, I  
12 want you to listen and I want you to adhere, we are here  
13 to support you, we are all in this together, no one is  
14 going anywhere. Mars isn't, you know, we can't live  
15 there. We need to figure it out. Please, please adhere.  
16 Thank you.

17 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Ms. Yahya. John  
18 Langmore.

19 MR. LANGMORE: I'm going to say for  
20 starters that I have no trust in DTE's interest,  
21 sincerity of interest in solar power. Is this off now?

22 JUDGE MACK: No, you've got to talk into  
23 it.

24 MR. LANGMORE: Yes. O.K. And that's  
25 because I'm a solar customer, SolarCurrents. I installed  
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1 the panels, I had to wait three months for them to come  
2 and inspect them correctly; they said that they were not  
3 installed correctly, but they were. I had to wait a year  
4 in a raffle in order to get onto the SolarCurrents  
5 program.

6 When I started the program, I accumulated  
7 some solar credits, and then in February of 2017 all my  
8 solar credits were taken away, they went from \$1,400 to  
9 zero. Later that year it was, you know -- and I got no  
10 bills until later in the year the credits were set to  
11 zero again. I still have them to solve the problem of  
12 billing me as a member of the SolarCurrents program, and  
13 I still would have paid for energy that I generated that  
14 they didn't give me credit for, and they can't solve the  
15 problem.

16 But the reason -- I know that DTE, I know  
17 that utilities have to be a monopoly, that's the  
18 traditional way because you want centralized power, you  
19 want reliability, all those sorts of things. And what  
20 does that end up doing? You want to make sure that the  
21 system is fair to the customer, and that means that you  
22 have affordable energy and you have reliable energy. And  
23 you want to be fair to DTE. That the precedent has been  
24 that you give DTE about 8 percent of their gross profit,  
25 that seems reasonable to me. That seems very reasonable.



1 Since 2013, DTE's total revenue has increased twofold.  
2 Since 2013, DTE's profit has therefore increased 20  
3 fold -- sorry, sorry -- twofold. Twofold. But it's  
4 still because it's 8 percent of the revenue. If you look  
5 over the years, the price of coal goes up and down, the  
6 price of gas goes up and down, but they always get on  
7 average about 8-percent return on their investment.  
8 That's O.K. Stock value since 2013 has increased by a  
9 2.4 factor. So the stockholders of DTE have no incentive  
10 to reduce costs. Any time you reduce the cost of energy,  
11 whether you do something like you make coal more -- coal  
12 cheaper, gas cheaper, or you put solar into effect or  
13 wind power, that 8-percent margin is there, so you lose  
14 some of your profit. Every time you make things more  
15 efficient, you lose some of your profit. That's not  
16 fair.

17 And people who think that solar and wind  
18 power is unreliable really aren't knowing the truth  
19 because they are reliable; they are always available and  
20 the price remains constant. Yes, you have to have  
21 backup, I know that, everyone knows that. But you want  
22 to get into sustainable energy as quickly as you can. It  
23 will reduce the total amount of revenue from generating  
24 the electricity, maybe that will be compensated by people  
25 having more EVs, I don't know, but it will probably

1       reduce the number of dollars spent on energy, and that  
2       will reduce the return for the stockholders of DTE, and  
3       the only people who can change that system to make it  
4       more fair is to -- are you guys, because somehow you're  
5       going to want to do something to incentivize them to have  
6       more nonfossil energy in use so that the ratepayers can  
7       benefit and the environment can benefit. I call that  
8       kind of a DTE money to burn. DTE will make more money if  
9       they continue to invest in fossil fuels, there's no doubt  
10      about that, but consumers will burn their pocketbooks by  
11      paying for that for new power stations that shouldn't be  
12      built, and they will burn from emissions of CO2 and also  
13      the air pollution from particulates.

14                So it's your responsibility to I think do  
15      something better than what DTE has proposed. I think  
16      Consumers has a much more aggressive view on what to do,  
17      and that's what you should do.

18                JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Mr. Langmore.  
19      Fred Miller.

20                MR. MILLER: Hello. My name is Fred  
21      Miller, I'm a volunteer with the Sierra Club. Thank you  
22      all for coming and holding this hearing.

23                I'd like to say just a couple of things  
24      about the commitment of DTE to the long-term use of  
25      natural gas as represented by the plant that they're

1 already allowed to build and have started and the second  
2 one that they have announced in the IRP they intend to  
3 build, new gas plants. Now, we are at a stage in the  
4 evolution of our societies around the world where our  
5 scientists have told us in no uncertain terms that we  
6 have a very short period of time to make a transition  
7 with energy, and we're beginning to see governments take  
8 that seriously. I mean you have mentioned some states,  
9 New York is now targeted as a zero-emissions economy by  
10 2050, which is in line with what scientists say is not a  
11 radical proposal but the necessary actions to forestall  
12 the most devastating effects of climate change. The New  
13 York plan also calls for a zero-emission electric sector  
14 by 2040. Electricity has to lead the way, not fall in  
15 behind, because other sectors of our economy that rely  
16 now on direct use of fossil fuels are going to have to  
17 switch to natural gas -- I mean not to -- to electricity,  
18 and if natural gas, if fossil fuels are being used for  
19 electricity, that switch will be much less effective and  
20 take much longer.

21 So I know that you're not in a position  
22 to launch Michigan on a similar path, but it's going to  
23 happen here and it's going to happen nationally; it's a  
24 question of when it's going to happen. You know, those  
25 of us who are pressing it wish it happened yesterday, but

1 it's going to happen, and if it's put off, it's going to  
2 happen in a panic.

3 The question is, what are we doing with  
4 natural, new natural gas plants with a 40-, 50-, 60-year  
5 lifespan given that time, kind of timeframe to make a  
6 transition in electrical production? DTE is not -- this  
7 is not news to DTE, not news to Exxon Mobil, it's not  
8 news to any of these people. They understand the  
9 foaling, and they know that this is coming. So the  
10 question is, why are they insisting on long-term natural  
11 gas commitments? Obviously they have an economic  
12 interest aside from their role as an electrical utility.

13 Are they looking for, as Consumers said  
14 when they looked into this kind of thing, this would --  
15 too risky, likely to end up as stranded assets. I don't  
16 think DTE probably plans that. Do they have a plan? My  
17 guess is that their plan, along with the rest of the  
18 natural gas industry, is to put this in as a fait  
19 accompli now, and then in coming years come back to their  
20 ratepayers and say, oops, now we need carbon  
21 sequestration, now we need carbon capture, whatever it  
22 costs and whatever damage that causes to the environment,  
23 to the water, and to the risk of methane leaks. They're  
24 not saying that, and their plan, their IRP doesn't  
25 explain what they're going to do to deal with this, but

1 that's the question of prudence for any of this thing  
2 that the Michigan Public Service Commission needs to  
3 address. How can new natural gas, another new natural  
4 gas plant be reasonable and prudent given what is  
5 happening and what has to happen, what is going to happen  
6 in terms of a transition in energy.

7 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Mr. Miller.

8 Carmel Cuthey.

9 MS. CUTHEY: I want to thank you for  
10 hearing us out here in Detroit. I want to thank you for  
11 hearing us out, and I'll be quick.

12 I want to give a pretext on how I found  
13 out about the MPSC. About three years ago I was pregnant  
14 and I inherited a home, and when I went into the home, I  
15 called DTE, I'm ready to get it all turned on. They told  
16 me who was there before was stealing electricity; as a  
17 matter of fact, you're the thief, and we want \$7,000 or  
18 you're not going to be able to get electricity. I was  
19 displaced for almost two years, through my whole  
20 pregnancy, which really put me in a wrongful spot with my  
21 children; and I kid you not, I was like laying on  
22 somebody's couch in my family. And I said has to be  
23 something, so I got to Googling, and I found out about  
24 the MPSC, and it was like the knight in shining armor.  
25 Like after that call, not even 30 days later they called

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1 me, told me that I need zero down, and they came and cut  
2 my lights and gas back on. So that's the pretext. I  
3 want to say you guys are definitely a knight in shining  
4 armor, we need you, and we need you.

5 The second part to it is I'm part of the  
6 bigger dynamic, but I'm also a part of the smaller  
7 dynamic. I have two children with a very rare disease,  
8 it's inherited, it's degenerative, and the main symptom  
9 of it is radio sensitivity. So coming from where I'm  
10 from and we have a bad infrastructure, not only do I have  
11 to slave to pay that bill, but I also dread every time  
12 that transformer busts open in my backyard because now my  
13 children are being exposed more to this radio sensitivity  
14 that is breaking them down anyway.

15 So the things that I really want to come  
16 and ask you for is a comp -- make DTE compete for us. We  
17 should be able to be satisfied if we do have to pay, we  
18 should be able to be satisfied. I'm worried about the  
19 health side of it. We don't want to be exploited anymore  
20 in this city, so, you know, just hear us out.

21 It seems like pretty much everything that  
22 I want to say has already been said, so I'm just  
23 appreciative to have you here. Thank you.

24 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Ms. Cuthey.  
25 Kevin Fisher. Kevin Fisher, Mr. Fisher.

1 Adrian Laurenzi.

2 UNIDENTIFIED: Laurenzi.

3 JUDGE MACK: Laurenzi.

4 MR. LAURENZI: I'm Adrian Laurenzi, I'm a  
5 resident in Detroit and a DTE customer, and I appreciate  
6 the opportunity to speak today. A lot of powerful things  
7 have been said, and I'm just going to add my piece to it.

8 So kind of add on I guess a little bit of  
9 a unique perspective. So I'm a grid-tie net metering  
10 customer, so I set up a solar system with the help of a  
11 friend who happened to know how to go through that  
12 process with DTE, which is not a friendly process, but,  
13 you know, I went through that trouble, and also spent the  
14 money and made the investment in it to have solar for my  
15 house. And I did that despite the fact that there was  
16 like absolutely no incentive from DTE, or as far as I'm  
17 aware, the state, you know, no incentive to do that, but  
18 I care about it because I think it's something that can  
19 benefit the future health of our community, and also  
20 security for our energy future. I also wanted to do it  
21 because to learn about solar, like what's this process  
22 like and how can we -- how can I learn more about it.

23 My neighbors come by, they ask me  
24 about -- they ask about the solar, they ask, you know,  
25 what -- is that, you know, helping your electricity bill,

1 they want know about it. You know, the sad thing that  
2 it, you know, about it is it's not accessible to the  
3 majority of my neighbors, they can't afford it, you know,  
4 there's no incentive for this, so that's a little bit  
5 disheartening.

6 To address the IRP, you know, the big  
7 complaint I have is it doesn't provide equitable access  
8 to renewable energy. This is the future I see, there's  
9 an amazing future with renewables, but, you know, we need  
10 to provide equitable access so we can take advantage of  
11 this. We need to incentivize this, but right now this  
12 IRP is not doing that.

13 Second concern, they're building natural  
14 gas infrastructure; this is, you know, not the way out of  
15 a climate crises we're in, and ultimately these, you  
16 know, extreme weather events, they're going to come back  
17 and affect us here in Detroit.

18 So I urge to you reject this IRP, and I  
19 also want to, you know, thank you for hearing us and  
20 also, you know, we're with you, we definitely, we want to  
21 work with you to help, you know, create a future, a plan  
22 that actually solves these problems, so appreciate it.

23 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Mr. Laurenzi.

24 Chairman Talberg, I believe you wanted to  
25 recognize someone.



1 MS. TALBERG: I just wanted to  
2 acknowledge Bridget Smith from Senator Curtis Hertel's  
3 office for participating. I don't think she has any  
4 comments, but I just wanted to acknowledge her presence.

5 UNIDENTIFIED: It's State Rep Hertel  
6 (inaudible).

7 THE REPORTER: I can't hear.

8 UNIDENTIFIED: State Rep Hertel.

9 MS. TALBERG: Sorry. Sorry.  
10 Representative Hertel. All in the family. Thank you.

11 JUDGE MACK: Thank you. Jesse  
12 DeerInWater.

13 MR. DEERINWATER: Hey, all. How's it  
14 going? Let me get this where it's in a decent spot here.  
15 Hello. I'm Jesse DeerInWater, I'm a concerned citizen,  
16 also a member of C.R.A.F.T., Citizens Resistance at Fermi  
17 Two; you heard a couple other people speak on this. I'm  
18 kind of nervous here.

19 My main concern that -- the main concern  
20 that I have is, with DTE's IRP is the Fermi 2 nuclear  
21 reactor and their plan to run it for 80 years total.  
22 After 37 years and it's already like literally falling  
23 apart and they're -- they have to prop it up, and over  
24 time, you know, that's going to lose money. I believe  
25 it's projected to lose money until 2022, and it started

1 in 2017, and I fear that the weight of that is going to  
2 fall on the customers through a bailout and the  
3 ratepayers will have to pay for it. But anyway, I'm  
4 going to move on because I had a bunch of stuff written  
5 down, I was just going to freestyle that.

6 All right. So we have here they want to  
7 have fewer inspections for a lot of things, and that's  
8 dangerous. They also want fewer refuelings, and in the  
9 last refueling cycle, there was 3,000 work orders and not  
10 even half of them were completed. You do the math. Over  
11 time, less fueling -- less fueling outages, more work,  
12 less work to be done, that's going to build up over time.  
13 All throughout this time nuclear waste will be amassing  
14 on the Great Lakes' shoreline. Totally unnecessary. We  
15 pay on our bills for waste management, and I mean what's  
16 really going on with it if it's just sitting there? You  
17 know what I mean. I mean I'm sure they're doing a lot  
18 with it, but we don't want it there.

19 And this, also, you know, the 50-mile  
20 radius, that's a thing, too, since it's the same plant as  
21 the Fukushima; there was a 50-mile danger zone around it  
22 when it melted down, and that here includes Detroit and  
23 Toledo. I don't know if there is a strong evacuation  
24 plan, I don't believe that there is, and if there is, the  
25 public sure doesn't know about it. And also the

1 distribution of KI, you know, there's a lot going on with  
2 this reactor and it's totally unsafe. I feel that it  
3 needs to be decommissioned, the waste removed from the  
4 Great Lakes. And if the electricity that was produced by  
5 this facility was produced by renewable energies,  
6 preferably rooftop solar with community ownership over  
7 the grid, kind of like rural co-ops, especially if, you  
8 know, like say cities or even if a county, you know, get  
9 their stuff together, you know what I mean, to pull that  
10 off, I think that's awesome.

11 Also, yeah, Consumers Energy is closing  
12 their aged reactor and replacing the energy with that  
13 from solar, they're projecting 5,000 megawatts by 2030,  
14 while DTE is only looking at like 500, or I believe  
15 that's what it is, but anyway, that's 10 times the  
16 amount. I mean, you know, DTE can step their game up I  
17 feel.

18 And then also the price of uranium is  
19 rising, so, you know what I mean, that's just more money  
20 that's going to have to go into the facility, more money  
21 that's going to come out of our pockets through rates or  
22 tax increase. I mean, you know, there's just a lot.

23 This year the price of solar is going  
24 down. New solar creates new jobs way more than building  
25 and maintaining gas plants which are dangerous, and

1 fracking waste is also dangerous. And I don't feel it  
2 reasonable that the dangers to the people and the  
3 environment from the Enrico Fermi 2 nuclear power plant  
4 is not considered as much as it should be, and I feel  
5 like they need to go back to the drawing board and come  
6 back with something a lot better, a lot safer, and more  
7 reasonable sounding. Thank you for your time.

8 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Mr. DeerInWater.  
9 Herb Helzor.

10 MR. HELZOR: Good evening. Thank you all  
11 for having this public hearing.

12 I would like to, I mean while  
13 acknowledging all the wonderful comments that have been  
14 made and the passion that they've shown and their  
15 commitment to, you know, to a sustainable future and  
16 forward and worries about climate change and the imminent  
17 threat to, you know, to our planet as a whole, I have  
18 something maybe new that this plan as submitted is  
19 completely lacking in. Well, first off, the mere fact  
20 that there is a scenario called status quo just struck me  
21 as absurd because the only thing that's certain in life  
22 is change and by 2030 we are not going to be in the  
23 status quo. But I mean -- but does the -- there is a --  
24 there is something that I don't think they've, that  
25 they've acknowledged, or they certainly haven't

1 acknowledged enough, maybe it's buried in the 1,300  
2 pages, but and that is any concern for cyber security.

3 That we know that the electrical grid,  
4 that for years the professionals in cyber security have  
5 known that the grid power system, our power transmission  
6 system, our power distribution system, the transformers,  
7 substations, all of it is vulnerable, and just last week  
8 that got raised up to a very high awareness level when  
9 our own U.S. cyber command revealed that they had -- that  
10 they had planted malware in the Russian electrical grid  
11 as a deterrent, meaning that they know that the Russians,  
12 possibly the Chinese, other nations' state actors or  
13 criminal groups have done it to our grid, and I see  
14 nothing in here or no acknowledgment that DTE has  
15 invested sufficiently in a, in cyber security in either  
16 awareness, mitigation, or just having the resources on  
17 hand to deal with a sort of outage that would result  
18 from, you know, a cyber attack. I mean they can't even  
19 handle, you know, a normal storm without having outages,  
20 where is the confidence in their ability to respond and  
21 mitigate a, you know, a cyber attack.

22 I think they need to come back and show  
23 what their, you know what their investment plan is over  
24 the next ten years in not just protecting their, not just  
25 protecting, you know, their cyber resources, but also in

1 general grid resilience, in grid hardening, in just, you  
2 know, just the ability to withstand an outage such as the  
3 one back in 2003 that took out most of the midwest. And,  
4 you know, I think the investment since then in protecting  
5 the grid has been woefully insufficient, and I think the  
6 IRP needs to come back with a greater sense of investment  
7 in protecting the grid, hardening the grid, and cyber  
8 security.

9 I also just as an aside think that any --  
10 that the idea that they're only planning to put in 11  
11 million -- 11 megawatts of solar as a pilot is doubly  
12 insulting in both the amount, which is pitifully small,  
13 and the fact that they even still think of it as a pilot.  
14 Solar energy has been shown to be very reliable, very  
15 resilient, and very doable. I mean if they can put a  
16 whole solar farm in a parking lot at Ford World  
17 Headquarters, they could do better than 11 megawatts  
18 statewide. Thank you.

19 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Mr. Helzor.  
20 Piper Carter.

21 MS. CARTER: Good evening. My name is  
22 Piper Carter. Thank you for coming here, I want you to  
23 know you made right decision to come here to Detroit,  
24 Michigan. And I am a resident of Detroit Michigan, I  
25 live in the City Council District 7, it's one of the most

1 underserved districts in the city; it's actually the most  
2 underserved district in the city, so that's the lense  
3 from which I'm speaking.

4 And just simply put, DTE is a big bully.  
5 They're acting as a huge bully. It's already been stated  
6 about that they are a monopoly which has us in, you know,  
7 basically trapped into the system to use it if we want to  
8 have access to any kind of electricity. DTE is at the  
9 table of what Detroit has organized, which is called the  
10 Green Task Force. The Green Task Force has been  
11 assembled by the city council. It is unreasonable that a  
12 monopoly should have a voice at something that is for the  
13 public. The Green Task Force has been assembled so that  
14 community members can be involved in their own decision-  
15 making about what happens in the city. So I wanted to  
16 put that into the record in terms of your decision-  
17 making, because it has been stated already very clearly  
18 about climate change and the detriment of climate change,  
19 and so if a huge stakeholder such as DTE is at the table  
20 with the city to make decisions for people, that's  
21 definitely terrible and not good and harmful.

22 So with that, I also want to echo that  
23 DTE while at that table has been actively acting against  
24 the interests of the people in terms of allowing --  
25 they've been literally blocking people's ability to be

1       able to participate in community solar. Community solar,  
2       as you've heard and as you can look at different  
3       examples, can provide not only autonomy from the system,  
4       it can also provide green jobs, which are very necessary.  
5       We've been told that there are a hundred thousand green  
6       jobs here in the state of Michigan, however, we have not  
7       been told as citizens that any of those jobs are  
8       earmarked for Detroiters that we desperately need with a  
9       citizenry that is very underemployed. Therefore, many of  
10      the issues that you have been hearing are due to the fact  
11      that our citizenry is underemployed. How can people  
12      afford to pay exorbitant amounts of increasing bills to a  
13      utility that their lives are dependent upon if they don't  
14      even have access to take care of their basic needs. I  
15      just wanted to -- that's rhetorical.

16                I wanted to also add, to remind you that  
17      natural gas produces methane. Methane acts as a natural,  
18      it's -- to strangle you, and it basically replaces oxygen  
19      levels. And what I looked up, and you can look this up  
20      for yourselves, the amount of oxygen -- the amount of  
21      methane that will be produced by the these proposed  
22      natural gas pipelines is very detrimental to the public  
23      health, and many of the levels will even cause death,  
24      multiple deaths. This is a public health emergency, a  
25      public health crisis that you can prevent by making it



1 affordable and accessible to be able to have access to  
2 solar, for community members to have access to solar. I  
3 wanted to reiterate that.

4 And then we've heard many of the examples  
5 of many of the downed wires, many of the deaths that have  
6 occurred from the downed wires, and I'm concerned as a  
7 citizen and as a resident of the earth about our planet  
8 and about climate change, and I'm also really concerned  
9 because we already don't have access to fresh, clean  
10 water, and I'm very concerned about the impacts of waste  
11 that this utility will have on our water systems and our  
12 fresh water systems in our region.

13 Again, I want to thank you for coming  
14 out, you made the right decision.

15 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Ms. Carter. Brad  
16 Williams.

17 MR. WILLIAMS: Good evening. My name is  
18 Brad Williams, I work for the Detroit Regional Chamber.  
19 The Detroit Regional Chamber is the third largest Chamber  
20 of Commerce in the country, and we represent  
21 approximately 3,000 businesses throughout southeast  
22 Michigan. Our mission as an organization is to build the  
23 economy of our region so that people can be employed and  
24 we can have a prosperous region. So I'm here today, and  
25 I appreciate the perspective of DTE's residential

1 customers, I'm here to offer the perspective of DTE's  
2 business customers.

3 We have made great strides in this state  
4 in improving our business climate over the last several  
5 years, but none of that matters if when our members go to  
6 open their factory or their store or their business in  
7 the morning and they flip on the light switch and the  
8 lights don't come on.

9 So we've been involved in energy policy  
10 for a number of years, particularly in the 2016 energy  
11 law that improved the process and transparency for energy  
12 generation and planning between energy providers and  
13 their customers. We support this IRP because we do  
14 believe it provides affordable and reliable energy for  
15 our members. That's all the more important with our  
16 signature industry here in Michigan, the automotive  
17 industry, which is moving more and more towards  
18 electrification, which is good for the environment and  
19 good for Michigan. So we are in support of this IRP and  
20 hope for your approval. Thank you.

21 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Mr. Williams.  
22 Lewis Novak. Louis Novak, Mr. Novak.

23 Paul Jonna.

24 MR. JONNA: Good evening. Paul Jonna on  
25 behalf of the Chaldean Chamber of Commerce. The Chaldean  
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1 community has over about 160,000 Chaldeans in this area,  
2 contributes to about \$11 billion annually to the Michigan  
3 economy. I want to thank everyone for being here today,  
4 it's not an easy subject to talk about, and obviously  
5 with all the information that's been given here today.

6 I just want to talk a little bit about  
7 the people at DTE. Today we've heard a lot about DTE as  
8 a corporation, but from our experience, DTE has been  
9 great at responding to our members' needs, especially  
10 when opening up new businesses, which is vital to the  
11 economy of Michigan, and we kind of need their support of  
12 doing these -- making sure that energy is reliable, that  
13 it's safe, and that people are able to open up their  
14 businesses.

15 I also want to talk about the Chaldean  
16 Foundation, which services about 31,000 people annually  
17 for social services. DTE has stepped in time after time  
18 and helped some of our citizens to make sure that their  
19 power is on, and they've been great partners with us, and  
20 as with the community. So we are in full support of  
21 this, and thank you for your time today. Thank you.

22 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Mr. Jonna. Diana  
23 Post.

24 MS. POST: Hi. Thanks for being here.

25 I'm a Detroit resident, a DTE customer, and a young  
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1 person, and I am not in favor of the IRP.

2 I always pictured that I'd be a mom, it's  
3 a big deal for me, and I'm afraid to be a mom. And I'm  
4 an activist, and I'm afraid of climate change, and I'm  
5 afraid of our future, and this plan is a joke. It's  
6 ridiculous. So it has a complete lack of substantial  
7 investment in renewable energy, just like solar. I'm  
8 going to reiterate some of the things people said, some  
9 really bright points. And it has an increase in natural  
10 gas infrastructure that does not ensure safety, something  
11 that was mentioned in a mission of this organization.

12 It is important that you regulate DTE so  
13 that their control over the energy system does not  
14 overpower the common good. We need to bring about a  
15 future that is liveable for our children. We can not  
16 operate business as usual, and we can not rely on DTE to  
17 make decisions for our communities that are motivated by  
18 corporate interests.

19 I request that the Commission reject the  
20 IRP and send DTE back to the drawing board. Thank you.

21 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Ms. Post. Nancy  
22 Skinner.

23 MS. SKINNER: Hi, good evening. My name  
24 is Nancy Skinner. Thank you for being here. I am  
25 actually a candidate for the Michigan Public Service

1 Commission for the seat up July 2, Mr. Saari. It's  
2 awkward, but thank you for your service and all of the  
3 service that you provide.

4 I have also been working on climate  
5 change solutions for over 25 years. Diane, is it?

6 MS. POST: Diana.

7 MS. SKINNER: Diana, we have solutions.

8 JUDGE MACK: Ms. Skinner, could you  
9 address your comments to the Commission.

10 MS. SKINNER: Yep. I just -- I was moved  
11 by her.

12 JUDGE MACK: I thank you.

13 MS. SKINNER: O.K. So here's -- I looked  
14 at the IRP, and I wrote a whitepaper that got the  
15 endorsement of the Michigan Environment, the MDP-  
16 Environmental Caucus, as well as the House democratic  
17 leader based on my whitepaper, which I have and I'll  
18 submit. And I'd like to send the IRP back to DTE to come  
19 back with something that's better for DTE. All right.  
20 Wait for it. Better for DTE, better for Consumers,  
21 better for the Big Three automakers, better for the  
22 environmentalists, which I am, better for consumers,  
23 better for labor, and better for the Governor to fix the  
24 damn roads.

25 Now, here's the plan in short. I worked  
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1 on climate change for 25 years. We at the state level  
2 have to fix this, it's not being done at the federal  
3 level. And transportation is the biggest sector of the  
4 missions, so we can effect that drastically. Now, it's  
5 very rare that you have a plan that makes everybody  
6 happy, but if we can build out the EV infrastructure or  
7 electrify the transportation sector, that's the largest  
8 emitting sector next to power generation. The autos need  
9 it because they want to sell more EV cars, they've all  
10 stated that now, so this will help reduce what's called  
11 range anxiety. The utilities will get far more revenues,  
12 charging revenues than they will if people are filling up  
13 their gas tanks. So workplaces could have tax credits,  
14 so you could charge at work. There are now charging  
15 stations that are Wi-Fi and they're for fleets of all  
16 kinds; municipal buses, school buses, Uber, whatnot.

17 That reduces battery size. But those  
18 batteries in those big fleets also serve as storage units  
19 for energy. So when we have peak loads, which we will as  
20 climate change increases, heat waves in the summer and  
21 more Polar Vortexes, that is the future, so those big  
22 batteries are bidirectional charging. So when the  
23 utilities need to buy back, instead of a 10:00 p.m. text  
24 alert as we had January 30<sup>th</sup> of last year saying shut  
25 down your thermostat, they can preorganize to sell back

1 those, that energy from those stored batteries. That  
2 solves the problem of storage which many people have  
3 talked about. It's not just solar and wind and separate  
4 storage, those batteries are storage. So the labor  
5 community, they could go back to work at Hamtramck and  
6 Warren and they can start making these charging stations.  
7 These are jobs and advanced batteries. We can be  
8 building new plants. This is something that the  
9 utilities, because they'll make so much more money and  
10 grow, then they can reduce their investment in natural  
11 gas.

12 Now, natural gas is an oxymoron. There's  
13 nothing natural about the way they frack gas. And this  
14 is another myth I want to kind of crush you. I'm a  
15 financial analyst, I went to the University of Michigan  
16 Business School. Everybody's talking about natural gas  
17 as if it's a reliable source of energy. The truth is,  
18 there's been a lot of recent reporting by the Wall Street  
19 Journal, Forbes, not exactly liberal rags, you can Google  
20 this, and oilprice.com's headline is the shale boom is  
21 going bust. Here's the deal: In 2006 when shale took  
22 off, the shale operators, their projections were for  
23 those profits to continue into the future forever, but as  
24 the Wall Street Journal and others were reporting, those  
25 parent wells they first drilled which were gushers, now

1 that they're building child wells next to them and those  
2 wells are now decreasing production significantly, such  
3 that the market cap on these shale operators have fallen  
4 like to 60-80 percent. So the easy credit they got  
5 financing from Wall Street, the debt credit that they  
6 got, like Enbridge is 90 -- their debt-to-equity ratio  
7 right now is 90.90 percent. That's insane.

8 So Enbridge issued in 2018 1 billion  
9 shares of stock. That brings them up to 2.2 billion  
10 shares outstanding, because they couldn't get anymore  
11 debt credit. So they're running on fumes themselves,  
12 Enbridge, as a shale company. So to think that the gas  
13 is going to be there for this lifespan of 40 or 60 years  
14 is ridiculous.

15 And there's no better proof that they  
16 know they're in trouble than I looked at the insider  
17 trading transactions, public information, everyone can  
18 read it, and the president, the executive vice president  
19 and president sold at a loss the \$550,000, his stock in  
20 Enbridge, March 15, and the executive vice president of  
21 development investment sold his stock at a loss of  
22 241,000 on March -- or February 15 of this year. Why did  
23 they issue a billion shares of stock and then sell out?

24 JUDGE MACK: Ms. Skinner, if you can  
25 conclude, please.



1 MS. SKINNER: My point is that the idea  
2 that the Commission can even consider natural gas or  
3 shale gas as a reliable long-term resource is a  
4 misconception that is now coming to light in markets.

5 Finally, I'll close out on what everyone  
6 else said. I have worked with all the top scientists,  
7 they have now concluded, it's called sigma 5,  
8 99.999-percent certainty. And the U.N. report talking  
9 about what we need to do about that says there is no  
10 documented historic precedent for the sweeping change to  
11 energy, transportation, and other systems required to  
12 reach 1.5 degree C. The U.N. governmental panel on  
13 climate change wrote in a report requested as part of  
14 that -- of the 2015 Paris agreement. So again, now less  
15 than 11 years to make drastic transitions to renewable  
16 energy. And in Michigan, if we implement this plan to  
17 build out the EV infrastructure, everyone wins. It's a  
18 winner for everybody, and mostly, for the planet. Thank  
19 you very much.

20 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Ms. Skinner.

21 Freman Hendrix. Mr. Hendrix.

22 Amanda Mayer. Ms. Mayer.

23 Gibran Washington.

24 MR. WASHINGTON: Gibran.

25 JUDGE MACK: Gibran. Sorry.

1 MR. WASHINGTON: Thank you for coming  
2 here. I'm speaking on behalf as a resident. I think  
3 that it's been a lot of really great comments and  
4 interesting comments, I hope you've kind of taken note  
5 and taken them to heart, and really just to keep in mind  
6 that the business community, they will be all right,  
7 they'll always be all right. DTE will make sure that  
8 their customers, they'll be taken care of, but regular  
9 citizens, those are people you really got to look out  
10 for.

11 And in the last 60 days, I live in  
12 District 2 in Detroit, born and raised in Detroit, I've  
13 had three power outages. So talk about reliability, eh,  
14 it's kind of sketchy. So they have been scrambling to  
15 cut trees, but trees grow, and scrambling to cut trees is  
16 still not sufficient. The idea of blocking community  
17 solar is foolish. Centralized power and the idea that  
18 you can dispatch it from a long distance doesn't make  
19 sense, doesn't make sense because when the power goes  
20 down, if you've got power being produced closer nearby in  
21 your area what's around you, you can much more easily  
22 from a prompter sitting in a room make adjustments and  
23 dispatch power to downed areas, right, as opposed to some  
24 long-distance location. Residents that have children,  
25 they lose food when power goes out, formula, diabetics,

1 things have to stay cold, it's not like -- it's like  
2 people said, it's not a game.

3 So when they throw up 11-megawatt solar  
4 pilot, that's not even funny. Like why? Why not  
5 500 megawatts of solar, community solar, where people who  
6 rent, people who don't own a house, how do you access --  
7 how do you try to be more efficient if you get the bulbs  
8 and you do all the other things, how can you drive it  
9 down? You don't really have a lot of money. Maybe you  
10 can pay a little bit on a panel or two over a year and  
11 own maybe four or six panels. Those options aren't  
12 available us to; it's really in your hands to allow those  
13 options to be available to all of us, not just those that  
14 have money.

15 I have no sympathy for corporate actors.  
16 Backup generators and put some renewable energy on your  
17 warehouse roof like a lot of Ford and (inaudible)  
18 companies do. Sitting on your laurels and hoping that,  
19 oh, DTE is going to make sure we have power and then you  
20 going to put it on the backs of the lower class people,  
21 the people who are working hard two and three jobs,  
22 that's not right. The rates should go up for them just  
23 like they go up for the regular residents. If they're  
24 always going to go up for the regular residents, they  
25 needs to always go up there. Oh, that's not a business-

1 friendly climate you don't want to create in Michigan.  
2 You got to innovate. You can't stop, not want to  
3 innovate.

4 Massachusetts, Minnesota, all these other  
5 states, they're progressive, there are people in their  
6 state houses are being progressive, their commissions are  
7 being progressive. They see the writing on the wall.  
8 They're not letting the utility dictate to them. So I  
9 say you begin to dictate to DTE. They got to do better.  
10 It's not enough.

11 Just simple things, just even being able  
12 to pay on your bill, pay for something, on-bill  
13 financing, all these little measures that are not  
14 available to residents keeps you in the dark ages, keeps  
15 you back so that when the real technologies land and hit,  
16 we won't be ready, we will always be behind, Michigan  
17 will be behind and Michigan will be playing catch up  
18 excuses. So it's in your hands to not allow other  
19 Commissions after you or those before you that made  
20 excuses to make excuses and hold them to the fire. It's  
21 important.

22 It's important for our children, it's  
23 important for my daughter when I talk about science with  
24 her and talk about the future and technologies, but, oh,  
25 yeah, you know, in Michigan it's different. That's

1 really kind of -- unless I get into politics, oh, it's  
2 politics. But what about these other places, the other  
3 states? Well, I guess they're not scared of the future,  
4 they're embracing the future. So that's all I have to  
5 say.

6 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Mr. Washington.  
7 Bob Nelson. Mr. Nelson.

8 MR. NELSON: Chairman Talberg,  
9 Commissioner Saari, Commissioner Scripps, it's been 20  
10 years since I took a seat where are you today, and I  
11 always found it a valuable experience to come to Detroit  
12 to have a public hearing, and so we really appreciate you  
13 coming today to hear the citizens of this great historic  
14 city.

15 I am here as president of the new  
16 Citizens Utility Board of Michigan, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit  
17 organization that was created out of the need for  
18 critical representation for residential ratepayers. And  
19 so there is going to be released in the next few weeks a  
20 report, a report card on Michigan utilities comparing  
21 them with utilities in other states, and we look at three  
22 factors: (1) Reliability, (2) Affordability, and (3)  
23 Environmental impacts. Now, Michigan is not -- does not  
24 fare well in any of these accounts, but let me focus on  
25 the environmental impacts, because I think it's important

1 to note that this report will find that Michigan ranks  
2 10th worst in terms of emissions of SO2 based on each  
3 kilowatt hour in electricity generated, and it also ranks  
4 20th worst in terms of CO2 emissions, and so it does not  
5 bode well for Michigan's rank among other utilities, but  
6 I think the best remedy for these considerably poor  
7 rankings is to have more renewable energy. And I think  
8 if you look at the DTE's four pathways in their advanced  
9 power plan course of action, and two of those pathways  
10 suggest that they could survive with no additional fossil  
11 fuel generation, and I think if that can be done, it  
12 should be done. We would support Commission  
13 consideration of those two pathways for the future of  
14 DTE. And again, appreciate you coming here to Detroit,  
15 and we will be filing written comments in the E-docket.

16 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Mr. Nelson.

17 Let's take a break. We will come back on  
18 the record at 7:20. We have a hard time of 8:30 where we  
19 have to conclude this. We will go up until 8:30 and get  
20 everybody in that we can. We have about 15 or 16 more  
21 comments.

22 (At 7:13 p.m., there was a ten-minute recess.)

23 JUDGE MACK: We are back on the record.  
24 Chairman Talberg, you had something to add.

25 MS. TALBERG: Yes. I just want to make a  
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1 couple of acknowledgments. Represent Tyrone Carter is  
2 here, he represents the Sixth District which includes  
3 parts of Detroit, Ecorse, and River Rouge, so welcome.  
4 Thank you for joining us. I know you were late in  
5 session, so thank you very much. Also Regina Strong is  
6 here, she's the public -- environmental justice public  
7 advocate for the Department of Environment, Great Lakes,  
8 and Energy, and welcome, and thank you also for helping  
9 us organize this event. And that's all.

10 JUDGE MACK: Thank you. Briana Parker.

11 MS. PARKER: Yes. Thank you for allowing  
12 this opportunity. I'll be brief. My name is Briana  
13 Parker, and I am testifying in the capacity of my  
14 position at Elevate Energy. Elevate Energy is an  
15 Illinois-based nonprofit that works nationwide, and we  
16 work in Michigan as well. We design and implement energy  
17 efficiency and solar programs that will (inaudible)  
18 cause, protect the environment, and ensure the benefits  
19 of clean energy reach those who need it the most.

20 It was stated in the plan that DTE will  
21 be retiring coal plants, and so DTE should expand the  
22 benefits of clean energy by including greater investments  
23 in renewable energy sources like wind and solar and  
24 energy efficiency to improve outcomes for everyone,  
25 especially low-income communities. Again, thank you for

1 this opportunity.

2 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Ms. Parker. Eric  
3 Marcot.

4 MR. MARCOT: Marcot.

5 JUDGE MACK: Marcot.

6 MR. MARCOT: Thank you for coming here  
7 and taking the time the entire day, I'm sure it's been a  
8 long day for you. I just appreciate the time that we  
9 have to share our concerns. I'll make it brief.

10 I'm here as a citizen and as a ratepayer  
11 for DTE, and I'm very concerned about climate change, I'm  
12 very concerned about our carbon dioxide emissions, and  
13 this plan doesn't seem sufficient enough to cover that.  
14 So I'm a proponent of clean energy, clean renewable  
15 energy, and I want to see that more, also more  
16 opportunities for residents like myself to be able to  
17 install solar, community solar as well would be great,  
18 and there's absolutely no incentives for that, it's very  
19 difficult to do those programs with DTE. Thank you.

20 JUDGE MACK: Thank you. Constance  
21 Bodurow.

22 MS. BODUROW: Good evening, Judge Mack,  
23 Chairperson Talberg, and Commissioners Scripps and Saari.  
24 My name is Constance Bodurow, I'm a community solar  
25 advocate and proponent, and also a citizen and small



1 business owner in Detroit and the state of Michigan.

2 Over the last three years, in conjunction  
3 with the Detroit 48204 neighborhood, I've served on a pro  
4 bono basis as technical project lead to advance the  
5 Seebaldt Pilot, a proposed community solar system serving  
6 low- and moderate-income residents. Sheila  
7 Allen-Frazier, who chairs the residents committee, is  
8 also in the audience tonight. I'll give her a shout-out.

9 We came last year within inches of  
10 implementation; the only thing that stopped us from  
11 success was interconnection to DTE's grid. That was  
12 three years of collective blood, sweat, and tears, and  
13 also a lot of joy and learning. We were buoyed by the  
14 knowledge that community solar is being actively  
15 implemented in every single adjacent Great Lakes state,  
16 but our project was stopped because Michigan does not  
17 have the mechanisms which support community solar.

18 I have reviewed the DTE IRP; I am certain  
19 that a lot of effort and resource went into the plan, but  
20 the IRP falls short because it doesn't even mention  
21 community solar. It needs to. The MPSC should compel it  
22 to. In 2017 the Seebaldt Pilot was one of several  
23 recipients of the U.S. Department of Energy Solar in Your  
24 Community Grant. We were first awarded -- when we first  
25 were awarded the grant, I talked to the DOE administrator

1 in Washington, D.C., and I said, you know, Michigan is  
2 not a receptive regulatory landscape for community solar;  
3 her response to me was, I know, but it will be, you need  
4 to be the tip of the spear. So with that optimism and  
5 encouragement, we forged onward in good faith on behalf  
6 of DTE's low- and moderate-income ratepayers in Detroit.

7 DTE's IRP does address renewables;  
8 however, I am concerned. Is what DTE proposes in their  
9 IRP good enough for the citizens of our state? PB  
10 magazine did a review of the entire 648-page IRP, and it  
11 reported on April 1 in an article that within the next  
12 five years covered by the IRP, "The utility plans to  
13 build a grand total of 11 megawatts of solar." To put  
14 that in perspective, my own design firm did an analysis  
15 that shows that the publicly owned vacancy in 48204 zip  
16 code of Detroit could deliver at least 5 megawatts of  
17 solar. That could have been accomplished not in five  
18 years, but by 2020. So let's do math. Just a couple of  
19 zip codes in Detroit could deliver the 11 megawatts that  
20 DTE is proposing. Imagine what the entire DTE service  
21 area might produce. It would not only allow DTE to meet  
22 its goal of 50-percent renewals far earlier than 2030, it  
23 would have numerous positive impacts in communities where  
24 it is most needed. It would ignite Michigan's new energy  
25 economy, it would improve quality of life, reduce

1 greenhouse gas emissions, it would protect our precious  
2 natural environment and on and on. You've heard all  
3 those positive impacts tonight.

4 I hope the MPSC will see that DTE's IRP  
5 vision is simply not enough of an aspiration, it is not  
6 good enough for the citizens of Detroit, and DTE's entire  
7 service area. We can and should do better.

8 As a citizen of Michigan, I want to  
9 remember my father, who was an immigrant in 1960. He was  
10 a civil rights attorney, and as he rose through the ranks  
11 at Ford, he tried to address the persistent inequities of  
12 education and professional opportunity, especially for  
13 women and underserved minorities. I left Michigan for 20  
14 years to go off and pursue my education and early career.  
15 When I returned in the 2000s, I was kind of shocked to  
16 see that those inequities hadn't really changed much. So  
17 in my own work I've tried very much to move that needle.

18 Today we have a once in a generation  
19 opportunity to create wealth and empowerment in our LMI  
20 communities across the state. The existence of enormous  
21 tracks of affordable vacant parcels provides the  
22 opportunity to implement roofless community solar,  
23 allowing LMI residents to generate wealth and opportunity  
24 for themselves and their communities.

25 I've always felt we lacked no resource in  
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1 Michigan, we have it all, natural, technical, social,  
2 cultural, everything; we only need a supportive  
3 regulatory landscape and the vision and political will to  
4 support it.

5 So really on behalf of the citizens and  
6 businesses that DTE serves, I hope the MPSC will compel  
7 DTE to embrace community solar as a central strategy and  
8 priority, it will help us meet the enhanced renewable  
9 energy vision and emission reduction goals. Thank you.

10 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Ms. Bodurow.  
11 Nicole Marcot. I just butchered that name. I'm sorry.

12 MS. MARCOT: Marcot.

13 JUDGE MACK: Marcot.

14 MS. MARTINEZ: I thought his name was  
15 Marcot when I first met him, too. Well, I just had a few  
16 brief points. Thank you for taking time to be here  
17 today.

18 My husband and I did buy into the VGPP  
19 program through DTE, and we only did because we had to do  
20 a lot of research to discover that it actually exists,  
21 it's almost impossible to discover that that's actually a  
22 program, and because we can afford it, and most people  
23 can't. Renewable energy is not a premium option, yet  
24 we're paying for it as such. It's quickly bypassing  
25 fossil fuels as the most affordable option, I read it

1 over and over again in research, and it doesn't pose the  
2 incredible health risks that extraction, transportation,  
3 and burning of gas pose to our community and the danger  
4 to our environment.

5 Ninety-seven percent of the climate  
6 scientists agree that in order to avoid the worst effects  
7 of climate change, we must cut greenhouse gases in half  
8 by 2030. Building a new gas-fired power plant is not  
9 doing that. We can not afford to drag our feet on moving  
10 away from coal. We can not develop new fossil fuel gas  
11 plants, gas and coal are simply not an option for our  
12 future.

13 I'm a resident Detroit, I'm a mother of  
14 two very young daughters. I'm incredibly concerned about  
15 climate change, and DTE is not. Their IRP is not  
16 helping. They can not afford to drag their feet.  
17 They're messing with the future of my children and the  
18 children of all DTE ratepayers.

19 I'm also getting emotional because, just  
20 as Diane shared earlier, this is just something that is a  
21 concern to so many people in my generation, those of us  
22 who are having children, very young children, and looking  
23 into their future and wondering what in the world it's  
24 going to be like and what kind of future they have.

25 So I'm please, please, please requesting  
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1 the MPSC to require DTE to go back to square one and redo  
2 the plan 100 percent. Thank you.

3 JUDGE MACK: Thank you. Mia McPherson.

4 MS. McPHERSON: Good evening. My name is  
5 Mia McPherson, I am a senior nursing student at Michigan  
6 State University, a health leader fellow with the Ecology  
7 Center in Ann Arbor, and a Doris Duke Conservation  
8 Scholar at the University of Michigan. I am a long-time  
9 resident of Ypsilanti involved with sustainable  
10 agriculture and environmental justice.

11 Before I begin, I would like to extend  
12 gratitude for the opportunity to express my concerns and  
13 hopefully elicit urgency for defending fundamental human  
14 rights to clean air, water, and other natural resources.

15 I believe healthcare providers must speak  
16 up about climate and health. We have unique medical  
17 expertise and a responsibility to the population we serve  
18 to be their advocates beyond the bedside. Ultimately as  
19 a result of pollution and climate change, the healthcare  
20 industry will bear the cost and responsibility for  
21 addressing climate-related disease exacerbations, which  
22 is especially concerning for the nursing profession  
23 already experiencing workforce shortages and a lack of  
24 environmental health education. Repercussions of air  
25 pollution will fall on patients through medical bills and

1 psychosocial burdens of maintaining chronic health  
2 conditions.

3 The climate crisis is our greatest  
4 concern and challenge today, thus making regulatory  
5 policy and aggressive strategic plans imperative in  
6 addressing the mitigation of pollution. Like many others  
7 here, I am concerned about coal plants and  
8 epidemiological --

9 JUDGE MACK: Excuse me, Ms. McPherson.  
10 Could you just slow down. I think we're having a  
11 problem.

12 THE REPORTER: I can't understand what --

13 MS. MCPHERSON: Sorry. I talk fast when  
14 I get nervous.

15 THE REPORTER: But I can't write it down.  
16 Sorry.

17 MS. MCPHERSON: Oh, O.K. I can give this  
18 to you. Thank you for the reminder.

19 -- linking air pollution to adverse  
20 health outcomes such as COPD, asthma, and lung cancer.  
21 Fossil fuel pollutants from coal plants also contaminate  
22 surface and groundwater with mercury, lead, and other  
23 toxins. Have we not learned from the atrocity that is  
24 the Flint Water Crisis? Michigan's overreliance on coal  
25 will have human health implications that will transcend

1 generations.

2 According to the American Thoracic  
3 Society, ozone pollution in Michigan was associated with  
4 275 excess deaths annually, making Michigan the seventh  
5 worst state for premature ozone pollution related deaths.  
6 Additionally, 640 serious illnesses such as myocardial  
7 infarction and chronic bronchitis are excessive  
8 morbidities associated with ozone pollution.  
9 Preventative health efforts such as environmental  
10 protections are cheaper than reactive healthcare, but  
11 this will come at the cost of corporate interests.

12 I have cared for patients with  
13 bronchitis, asthma, atherosclerosis, and other  
14 cardiovascular or respiratory illnesses. I have seen  
15 them suffer. I have witnessed the burden, the burden  
16 their poor health puts on their families, finances, and  
17 communities. We do not have until 2025 or 2040; this is  
18 an immediate issue and must be treated as such. People  
19 have died. More people will die. This is not hyperbole  
20 or fear-mongering. More residents will die due to  
21 environmental degradation.

22 DTE has the opportunity to be a leader in  
23 energy efficiency and possesses the power to influence  
24 acute and chronic health outcomes of the residents of  
25 southeast Michigan. For those of us not reaching our



1 fullest health potential, our communities will be  
2 affected socially and economically. I implore you to  
3 make greater efforts for ensuring environmental health  
4 and justice. The health of residents and citizens should  
5 take precedence over financial corporate benefit. Thank  
6 you.

7 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Ms. McPherson.  
8 Sheila Allen-Frazier. Ms. Frazier.

9 MS. ALLEN-FRAZIER: I had submitted it to  
10 be read in entirety, but my name is Sheila Allen-Frazier.  
11 I am chairperson of the TCS -- no -- TSP-OBR, that's The  
12 Seebaldt Project-One Block Resident. We have implemented  
13 on our -- in our community a solar project, and we're  
14 part of the -- I was part of the, that Ms. Bodurow  
15 mentioned, part of the project Ms. Bodurow mentioned.  
16 And I'm nervous.

17 So we have implemented a prototype in my  
18 area. We are a low-income, low- to moderate-income  
19 neighborhood, so and we have implemented. We worked  
20 three years on this project, and as Ms. Bodurow has said,  
21 we have gotten to the point we're done with it. We're  
22 done with it. We've been -- we're waiting for DTE to  
23 give us the O.K. to interconnect. And but other than  
24 that, we put in three years of hard work and we would  
25 like to see it implemented. And I'm -- I thank you very

1 much.

2 JUDGE MACK: And I apologize, you did  
3 mark the box no, that you didn't, but you did a really  
4 good job, so thank you.

5 MS. ALLEN-FRAZIER: Thank you.

6 JUDGE MACK: Lee Andre.

7 MR. ANDRE: My name is Lee Andre, and I'm  
8 a retired engineer, and I'm from outside Detroit. I'm a  
9 farmer, and a member of the Solar Conservation Service  
10 which exists in each of the county of the state of  
11 Michigan, and we believe that rooftop solar can work for  
12 some people, but that to implement a full-blown renewable  
13 energy program, there will have to be farm, solar farms  
14 in the countryside. And so I'd like the Public Service  
15 Commission to take a larger and more active role in the  
16 siting of these farms. The reason is that I believe that  
17 they can have dual purposes.

18 Last month I attended a solar show in  
19 Munich, Germany, in an effort to see what other parts of  
20 the world are doing to integrate agricultural land use,  
21 community land use, and solar land use, and I found  
22 locations where they were retaining water up to four feet  
23 deep underneath solar arrays, and I know that when the  
24 peak flow occurs during a rain event, that that's the  
25 time that most of the phosphorus and most of the sediment

1 enter Lake Erie, and that as the Public Service  
2 Commission, if we would carefully site solar arrays that  
3 were designed to do that kind of water detention, that we  
4 would be able to finance through electrical generation  
5 much of the environmental improvement that's needed to  
6 protect the lake. And so I -- in our county, we have 115  
7 detention basins that were built to protect the runoff  
8 from parking lots, these of course are very small, but I  
9 think in a large setting, we could look at each watershed  
10 and we could find a thousand acres that could be covered  
11 with solar, and when there's a rain event maybe twice a  
12 year or a big event every five years, those locations  
13 could actually reduce the way that the rain event affects  
14 Lake Erie. So I'd like to, you guys to expand your view,  
15 you know, of how do we improve the electrical  
16 infrastructure in this state.

17 And of course once we distribute power,  
18 we have all the advantages of distributed power, but we  
19 also have distributed tax base, we have distributed  
20 employment, and I think the, what the new economy could  
21 look like rests somewhat in your hands.

22 This situation that the governor did two  
23 weeks ago where she reversed -- where we she allowed  
24 farmland preserved, things from Public Act 116, to become  
25 solar farms, this means that big farms are now in place,

1 the utilities that want to build them will build a big  
2 array. And the fact that they are going to have bees  
3 underneath it is a little bit of a joke because they can  
4 only fly about two or three miles. It would be much  
5 better to have distributed power in many locations so the  
6 bees have more homes. And I have just said the same  
7 thing about water retention.

8 So the 2018 farm bill talks about  
9 2 million acres set aside for wetlands and for water  
10 detention, and I think if half of that or a quarter of  
11 that could be under solar, the cash flow from the public  
12 coffers to take that kind of land out of production could  
13 be financed by the electricity that's built, that's  
14 generated. Thank you very much.

15 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Mr. Andre. Maria  
16 Thomas.

17 MS. THOMAS: Good evening. First I'd  
18 like to thank you all for coming to Detroit. Detroit is  
19 a frontline community that is greatly impacted by energy  
20 providers such as DTE, as well as other regulated and  
21 unregulated industry in this country and in this state.  
22 Detroit -- can you hear me? Hello.

23 JUDGE MACK: Let's go off the record.

24 (Brief pause to change the microphone.)

25 MS. THOMAS: So as you probably know,  
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1 Detroit is host to the filthiest zip code in the entire  
2 state of Michigan. People that live in that zip code and  
3 work in that zip code often do not see the age of 65 to  
4 be able to partake in the benefits that they worked all  
5 their lives for because of high instances of asthma,  
6 COPD, cancers, all due to the fallout and pollution of  
7 the industries that are in that zip code. Unbeknownst to  
8 many, pollution has no walls. So it doesn't just fall on  
9 48217, but it is concentrated there.

10 I come to you today as someone who works  
11 for a very small nonprofit that is very progressive and  
12 is doing wonderful things called Soulardarity, but I come  
13 to you most specifically because I am a resident, a  
14 life-long resident the city of Detroit. I'm 63 years  
15 old, I am a 20-year survivor of a diagnosis of breast  
16 cancer, and I'm also a person of faith. And I believe  
17 right now the Lord is screaming at us because it's June  
18 the 20th and the farmers can not plant in the state of  
19 Michigan because the ground is still too impacted by  
20 water. Wake up. It's time for us to do the right thing  
21 because it's the right thing to do. We can not be good  
22 stewards to shareholders and alleviate the need to serve  
23 the public, as you are tasked to do, and it is identified  
24 that you are tasked to do because you are the Michigan  
25 Public Service Commission, not the Michigan Shareholders

1 Service Commission.

2 I implore you to reject the IRP submitted  
3 by DTE. I implore you to require, not request, that DTE  
4 be better neighbors. I implore you to require, and not  
5 request, that DTE make it easier for community solar to  
6 be implemented in our state and in our region.

7 Detroit, as you may know, has an  
8 unemployment rate that hovers well above the state and  
9 well above the national norm. Detroit has a poverty  
10 level that is still hovering well above 30 percent. So  
11 new alternative energy, solar, wind, water, could all be  
12 used to lift people from poverty. That would take a  
13 strain off of the state because less people would need  
14 assistance from DHS. It would take a strain off of the  
15 health centers in the system because it would reduce the  
16 amounts of asthma, COPD, cancer, and other diseases that  
17 are directly related to pollution.

18 But as has been stated before many times,  
19 scientists have determined that we have less than ten  
20 years to change the trajectory of the pollution and the  
21 carbon footprint that has been produced in the last 50 to  
22 100 years that is destroying entire populations of animal  
23 species as we speak. And we must remember we are  
24 animals. So the earth may survive in a damaged state,  
25 but we won't.

1                   When the Native Americans that occupied  
2                   this land before it was invaded make a decision that's  
3                   going to impact the tribe, they don't make the decision  
4                   based upon a quarter, which is what corporations such as  
5                   DTE do, they base those decisions based upon the effects  
6                   of the next seven generations. We need to look beyond a  
7                   quarter of a year to the next seven generations. Will  
8                   your children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and  
9                   generations following that be able to survive? Mine  
10                  won't. You can run, but you can't hide. We need to do  
11                  the right thing, because it's the right thing to do.

12                   Please, I implore you, I beseech you, and  
13                   I pray that you will reject this IRP. Send them back to  
14                   the drawing board. Be good neighbors and invite people  
15                   that are on the frontline to the table so that they have  
16                   not just on the menu. Thank you.

17                   JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Ms. Thomas.  
18                  Traci Rink.

19                   MS. RINK: Hi. My name is Traci Rink,  
20                   and I represent many of these obviously points of view,  
21                   but want to start by saying I'm newcomer to energy  
22                   policy, it's not something I know a lot about. I'm  
23                   attorney, I work for Oakland County in the capacity as a  
24                   referee, and I obviously want to make clear that I'm not  
25                   here in that capacity. I'm speaking as a homeowner, I'm

1 a homeowner in West Bloomfield.

2 We signed papers and are having solar  
3 panels installed on Monday at a great expense. And I  
4 want to say to the people that are here and I -- that I  
5 think I represent a demographic that you're going to see  
6 more and more of, and that is people that have not been  
7 in the frontline of activism for years, although I  
8 consider myself an activist, but people who are voting  
9 with their dollars. And I think that to the extent I can  
10 make choices with my money and how I spend my money, I'm  
11 going to make choices that are environmentally friendly.

12 You know, I'm middle class, middle  
13 income, but I think that Michigan needs to do everything  
14 we possibly can to make sure that we are in the  
15 forefront, that we're a leader, not a follower, when it  
16 comes to renewable energy, because there's no dispute  
17 that that's where things have to go. It's a win-win  
18 situation, it's a win for jobs, win for clean energy, win  
19 for the environment.

20 I can't -- you know, when I'm a senior  
21 and I am able to leave Michigan or to retire, I want to  
22 retire to a place that represents my values; I don't want  
23 Michigan to lose anymore citizenry because we are behind  
24 the times when it comes to representing where people are  
25 coming from. But whether I go to France or go to Montana



1 or go to Wisconsin, we aren't going to be able to go  
2 somewhere where the effects of climate change are not  
3 very clear.

4 And I feel very badly for the lady who  
5 had, you know, people who have young kids. My daughter  
6 is 22 years old, she's a physicist and she lives in  
7 British Columbia where I sent her to school. She may be  
8 able to avoid gun blinds, but she's not going to be able  
9 to avoid climate change, it's going to happen there. My  
10 best friend just got back from a U.N. mission in the  
11 Maldiv Islands, it is getting decimated by the sea  
12 change. She's there on a human rights mission with the  
13 United Nations and saw the devastating effects of the  
14 rise of sea level.

15 I've worked with Nancy Skinner in the  
16 past, and I have not -- and she's done a great job  
17 representing us in the forefront of these issues that are  
18 facing us, but this is not a fringe issue anymore. These  
19 are not people that there's a handful of people that come  
20 out for the co-ops and the, you know, community  
21 associations and the fringe issues, this is something  
22 that's going to affect all of us, and the fact that some  
23 people are slower maybe on the uptake to see that it's  
24 affecting, going to be affecting them soon, they're  
25 going -- it's going to be there soon.

1                   We have an electric car and, you know, we  
2                   have a, as somebody else said, a monopolistic energy  
3                   situation, so it's whoever, my provider is DTE, my  
4                   provider is Consumers Energy, so we're stuck with their  
5                   policies, but I can't see where the continued use of  
6                   nonrenewable resources has helped with anybody, including  
7                   the people producing them, including the workers who mine  
8                   them out of the grounds, including the frackers. There  
9                   is simply no upside to continuing down that road.

10                   What else did I want to say. It sounds  
11                   to me, and I'm not going to lie, I have not read too much  
12                   about the IRP, but it sounds like, based on what I'm  
13                   hearing, it's not something I think is in the best  
14                   interest of the state of Michigan. And I am hoping that  
15                   I don't have problems when it comes to getting my  
16                   installation approved in few weeks.

17                   Just give me one second. I think we need  
18                   to go back to the one-on-one net metering. I think  
19                   everybody in this room and many, many, many, many people  
20                   that are not in this room actually are all possible  
21                   resources for the state. I bet almost any one of the  
22                   people that have spoken will be happy to put a wind power  
23                   or solar energy on their home and give it to DTE to help  
24                   the state. I mean I may be able to afford to do it,  
25                   although I really can't, I'm just doing it because it

1 means a lot to me, but we are all resources, we are all  
2 resources that could be put into play to make sure that  
3 Michigan is in the forefront of combating climate change.  
4 I guess that's what I wanted to say, so I thank you for  
5 the opportunity to speak to you.

6 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Ms. Rink.  
7 Matthew Borke.

8 MR. BORKE: Hello there. My name is  
9 Matthew Borke. Thank you for all joining us today.

10 First question I guess I would bring up  
11 to you, I know you can't respond to these things, is I'm  
12 always curious as to how these things are advertised. We  
13 do the public hearings all the time, and I think that  
14 this is great newsworthy material that I never seem to  
15 see advertised anywhere other than by the activist  
16 communities, and I would appreciate it if this real news  
17 was something that we brought out to all the members of  
18 the public.

19 So I came down here from Flint, so  
20 obviously I have some issues with water. I'd like to  
21 kind of go over some practical information on the fact  
22 that we are here in Michigan and we have no more clean  
23 water. I see that bottle of Nestle there; unfortunately  
24 that has PFOS in it. We called up Nestle last year, they  
25 said, sorry, there's no regulations against PFOS in

1       bottled water, so although we're know it's in there,  
2       we're not going to filter it out.

3               Let's go over some history about what  
4       happened this last year. Over the wintertime we shut  
5       down our -- were asked to turn down our temperature  
6       gauges to 60 degrees; through that we released publicly  
7       that we needed 3.7 billion cubic feet of natural gas a  
8       day in our worst times for all of lower Michigan. I  
9       would like to point out that in 2017, Energy Transfer  
10      Partners came in, moved it in to Michigan with a pipeline  
11      called Rover Pipeline. It pumps 3.25 billion cubic feet  
12      a day, as well in 2018 Enbridge put in Nexus with the  
13      help of DTE, putting in Nexus Pipeline, which pumps 1.5  
14      billion cubic square feet a day. Now, that totals  
15      4.75 billion cubic square feet of natural gas a day,  
16      every single day, and that's just in the last two years.  
17      So where is that gas going? Well, like we have to wonder  
18      about things like that because there is no mercaptan in  
19      that, which means that it's not been -- for those who  
20      don't know what mercaptan is, it's the odorant that helps  
21      to notice when the gas is leaking, so we're seeing  
22      problems with this system that they're telling us about  
23      what we need. If they use eminent domain and said this  
24      gas is for us, what are we going to next see?

25               So they had a hard time getting Nexus in  
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1 because the Nexus is a 36-inch pipe, Rover is a 42-inch  
2 pipe. Rover somehow is pumping twice as -- more than  
3 twice as much gas a day, but only six-inch difference.  
4 So they had to work very hard with trying to approve  
5 Nexus and show that we needed this new pipeline, even  
6 though, again, it's not for our country, but it's backed  
7 by DTE.

8 Now what happens next? Well, they tell  
9 us, well, we're going to take -- we're going to put in  
10 this infrastructure for you, while they go to our local  
11 banks and they take out our money that we put in our  
12 local banks and they use that to invest in this pipeline  
13 and then they roll in all of the costs of this  
14 infrastructure then back onto the paying residents. So  
15 we're hearing about new gas plants that we need and the  
16 need for, so what's going to happen next? So we build a  
17 new gas plant, and so now we're responsible to support  
18 that natural gas plant, even though the residents might  
19 not need it. Well, if we're not using enough gas, well,  
20 turn up the heat; we need to use this infrastructure, we  
21 just spent all this money and now we need to use it. So  
22 we're kind of as residents being put in a stuck position  
23 and we're being lied to unfortunately. So when we're  
24 talking about what our needs are for our local heating  
25 sources and our local electricity sources, it doesn't

1       seem like they're being honest with us.

2                   O.K.   What's going to happen after that?  
3       So you have natural gas that comes from fracking.   Are we  
4       going to be looking at doing that locally?   Would we want  
5       all of our gas from locally within our state?   Well, that  
6       just means opening up fracking just everywhere in  
7       Michigan, that way we can get it locally.   But then what  
8       happens next?   Oh, it has to go to what we call a cracker  
9       plant.   O.K.   They don't want to put the mercaptan in the  
10      gas before it goes to a cracker plant because then the  
11      company has to waste money on taking it out before they  
12      crack it.   O.K.   The cracking process is a lot what adds  
13      the extra methane to the air.   So are we also on top of  
14      looking at these new gas plants also talking about  
15      putting in hundreds of new cracker plants here in  
16      Michigan, or are we going to ship it over to Canada,  
17      crack it over there, and then ship it back to the United  
18      States?   So I mean just trying to lay down as much  
19      factual evidence of what's happening with these natural  
20      gas things that are going all across the country and how  
21      the citizens are kind of being lied to with where this  
22      gas is going and what it's used as.

23                   Again, thank you for coming out here for  
24      us and joining us.   Have a nice day.

25                   JUDGE MACK:   Thank you, Mr. Borke.   Joel  
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1 Batterman.

2 MR. BATTERMAN: Good evening. Thank you  
3 for the opportunity to speak. My name is Joel Batterman,  
4 I'm a resident of Detroit, and unlike a lot of folks  
5 here, I'm not an expert on energy, but I do see that your  
6 mission as the Michigan Public Service Commission is to  
7 protect the public, and I just don't see that approving  
8 DTE's proposal could be consistent with that. Not only  
9 does it threaten to eventually raise rates at a time when  
10 a number of my neighbors are running on kerosene because  
11 they can't afford to pay already, but the proposal fails  
12 to move us beyond fossil fuels, the fossil fuels that are  
13 killing our planet.

14 Like a lot of folks my age -- like a lot  
15 of folks our age, my wife and I are thinking about  
16 whether to have children, and while there are a few  
17 different considerations that go into that, one of them  
18 is whether our kids would -- will inherit a planet that's  
19 good for people to live on.

20 For the past month or so, DTE's been  
21 tearing up our street to put in a new gas line, and every  
22 morning I wake up and look out the window and wonder, is  
23 this really the best that we can do? Is this really the  
24 time to be doubling down on fossil fuels? What if those  
25 same workers were helping weatherize homes on our street

1 or installing community solar?

2 The science on this has been clear for  
3 years. The moral imperative is obvious, and if DTE  
4 doesn't recognize it, I hope to God that you will. Thank  
5 you.

6 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Mr. Batterman.  
7 Ian Tran.

8 MR. TRAN: Good evening, Commissioners  
9 and Judge. Thank you for coming to Detroit. As you  
10 heard before, this is a very important issue to many of  
11 us in the community.

12 My name is Ian Tran, and while I've  
13 marked on my sheet that I am advocacy chair for the U.S.  
14 Green Building Council Detroit Chapter in Michigan, the  
15 comments that I'll be providing are as a private citizen,  
16 but they are representative of the work and information  
17 that I've learned over the past, since 2015, dating back  
18 to the Snyder administration and the policy vision and  
19 some of the impacts with energy.

20 The number one thing that I'd like to  
21 highlight is to consider energy resilience and economic  
22 resilience as well, and some of the challenges that are  
23 associated with it for DTE is it's just a very different  
24 or fundamental difference in paradigms for how the  
25 businesses can work and also how operations can be done.



1 One of the things that you've heard from today is there  
2 are at least four or five solar companies here in  
3 Detroit, but they're grass roots and they're small  
4 business, they're not a monopoly-scale Wal-Mart-like  
5 DTE-sized operation.

6 And DTE, it was in 2018 they had received  
7 accusations of suppressing entry into the solar market in  
8 an NPR article, and also as far as even how they shaped  
9 some of the local municipal requirements and the pricing  
10 because their cost estimates and just the economy of  
11 scale that they have, they set things in a different  
12 level than what many of the communities would do in terms  
13 of how neighborhoods might source neighbors literally  
14 just to help with installation rather than bringing in  
15 full-rate tradespeople or other sources in consultation.

16 Secondly, when comes to looking at the  
17 market, DTE isn't -- shouldn't be seen as the only  
18 provider. We have an opportunity to let other  
19 organizations take leadership. And also they don't have  
20 to necessarily adhere to the same degree of reliability  
21 standards in the sense that if a local community is  
22 working on a micro grid, for example, there's nothing  
23 that's -- that should -- and I understand there's some  
24 regulations that are in place that differ, but they  
25 should differ -- or I'm sorry -- they should stop them

1 from potentially disconnecting portions of the house from  
2 the grid and operating off grid, and just having that  
3 option is a benefit.

4 Another thing I'd like to raise is that  
5 in 2018 Consumers Energy collaborated with the U.S.  
6 military National Guard for Project Delta Force, and  
7 they've already installed a micro grid here in Michigan  
8 that's going on 1.1 megawatts of solar energy. So the  
9 technology is feasible, and it's underway just on the  
10 west side of Michigan at Fort Custer.

11 And second, I wanted to urge the Public  
12 Service Commission to consider that the -- there's a 2017  
13 public health action plan that assessed pollution  
14 requirements, I can send this in my comments e-mailed,  
15 but a list of them really speak to some of the things  
16 that the Public Service Commission can do as a  
17 facilitator and also in potentially denying the request  
18 for this IRP. Point source controls, renewable energy,  
19 indoor air quality, buffers and barriers, compliance and  
20 enforcement, and enhanced ambient monitoring were all key  
21 strategic priorities for reducing severe public health  
22 impacts in southwest Detroit, especially in Detroit as a  
23 city. I happen to be a resident of 48216, which is  
24 adjacent to the 48217 area code, and also suffers from  
25 higher than national average air pollution.

1 A third thing is, as far as potential  
2 recommendations, again, like the MPSC could potentially  
3 develop a stopgap fund for prioritizing weatherization  
4 and energy optimization. Governor Snyder's plan under  
5 Valerie Brader was still viable and it's more or less not  
6 changed under the Gretchen Whitmer administration, and  
7 many of those priorities are still not yet met.

8 Although, again, the best megawatt/kilowatt saved is the  
9 one that you're saving. So being able to invest savings  
10 on a collective level, especially on small residential or  
11 small-scale power providers or businesses, I feel that  
12 the state, Michigan, has the potential to convene and do  
13 something very similar to, let's say, the Michigan  
14 State's program, which that is almost their, their  
15 mission in terms of providing work.

16 And then finally, as far as considering  
17 evacuation planning, as someone else had raised as far as  
18 cyber security threats and also just other domestic  
19 challenges, the city of Detroit really isn't in a  
20 position to do that. So those are the things that I want  
21 to really urge that, by denying this proposal, it also  
22 gives us time as residents and as a small business public  
23 sector or private sector also to coalesce. Thank you.

24 JUDGE MACK: Thank you, Mr. Tran. Judy  
25 Lindberg. Ms. Lindberg.

1                   That is all the cards that we have. Is  
2                   there anybody who wanted to the address the Commission  
3                   who I haven't called? O.K.

4                   With that, I will turn it over to the  
5                   chair.

6                   MS. TALBERG: All right. Thank you,  
7                   Judge Mack. Thank you to all of our staff who helped  
8                   organize this event, I know it was a lot of hard work on  
9                   their part. Thank you all for sticking with us to the  
10                  end, we appreciated the input that we received this  
11                  evening. And I also want to give a special shout-out to  
12                  our court reporter, Lori Penn, that's hard work to  
13                  capture all the comments throughout the evening, and so  
14                  appreciate your effort on that.

15                  Good evening. And that concludes our  
16                  meeting.

17                  JUDGE MACK: We're off the record. Thank  
18                  you.

19                  (At 8:10 p.m., the public meeting concluded.)

20                                 - - -

## C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Lori Anne Penn, do hereby certify that I reported in stenotype the proceedings had in the within-entitled matter, that being Case No. U-20471, before Dennis W. Mack, Commissioners Sally Talberg, Norman Saari, and Daniel Scripps, at the Wayne County Community College-Downtown Campus, Frank Hayden Community Room, Detroit, Michigan, on Thursday, June 20, 2019; and do further certify that the foregoing transcript, consisting of 149 pages, is a true and correct transcript of my stenotype notes.

---

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Dated: